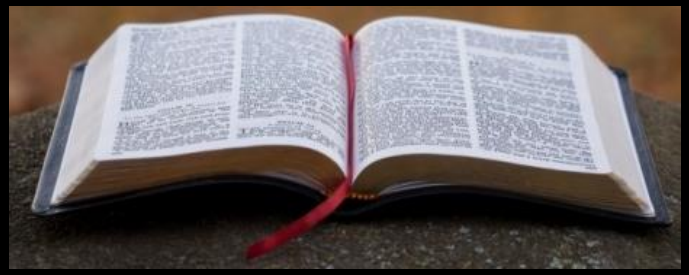
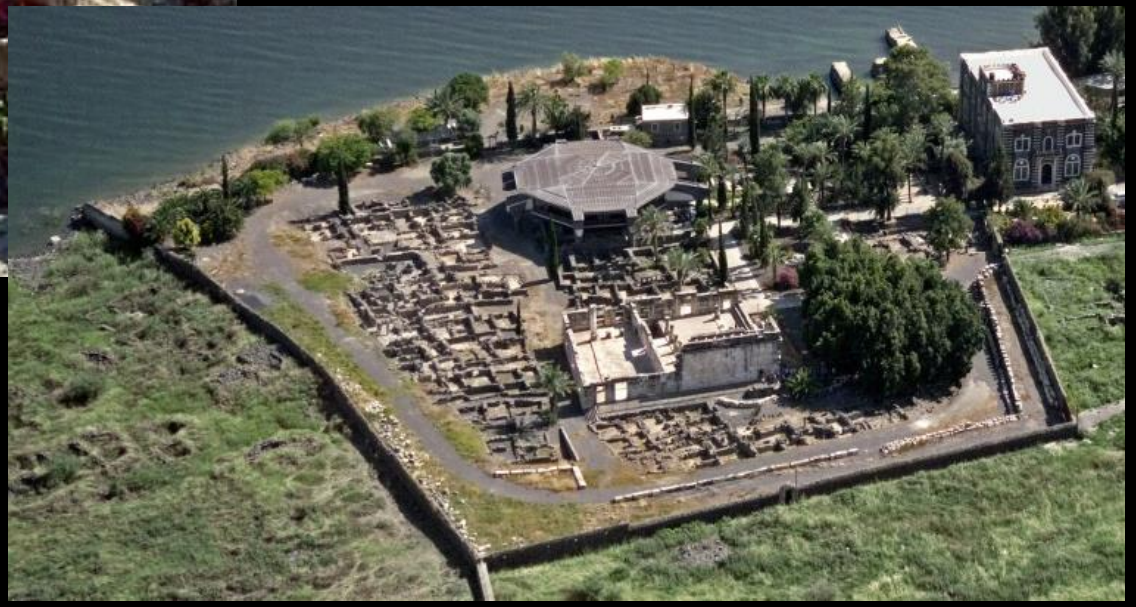
THE BIBLE JOURNEY

Archaeological, Geographic and Historical Confirmation of the Bible – New Testament





1 Home of Virgin Mary, Grotto in Church of the Annunciation

Nazareth, Galilee, Israel. *32°42‘7.61"N, 35°17‘51.63"E*

(http://holylandphotos.org/browse.asp?s=1,2,5,36,182&img=INLGNZ07) (accessed December 7, 2018)

Luke 1:26-38

c. 5 BC

Nazareth was a small town in the first century made of descendants of returned exiles of the tribe of Judah. What is amazing is that Nazareth is within the boundaries of the tribe of Zebulun. 700 years earlier, the prophet Isaiah foretold that the Great Light would come to the land of Zebulun in Isaiah 9:1-2. Isaiah and Zechariah both prophesied that the Messiah would be called “The Branch”, which in Hebrew is “netser”, which is the root word for Nazareth. The Catholic Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth was built in 1969 upon the ruins of a 1st century dwelling in Nazareth which is believed to be the home of the Virgin Mary. This home is now called the Grotto of the Annunciation and is believed to be the place where the Angel Gabriel met her and announced to her that she was to be the mother of Jesus Christ. Connected to the Grotto are stairs from a 4th century church which also venerated the site. Above the site are ruins of Byzantine churches which were destroyed, then rebuilt in Crusader times, then destroyed again. Early believers knew this as the place where Mary, the mother of Jesus, lived and grew up. Within the grotto, there is an altar with the following inscription: Verbum Caro Hic Factum Est, which means “Here the Word was made flesh.”

2

Spring of the Virgin, St. Gabriel Greek Orthodox Church

Nazareth, Galilee, Israel. *32°42'25.40"N, 35°18'5.64"E*

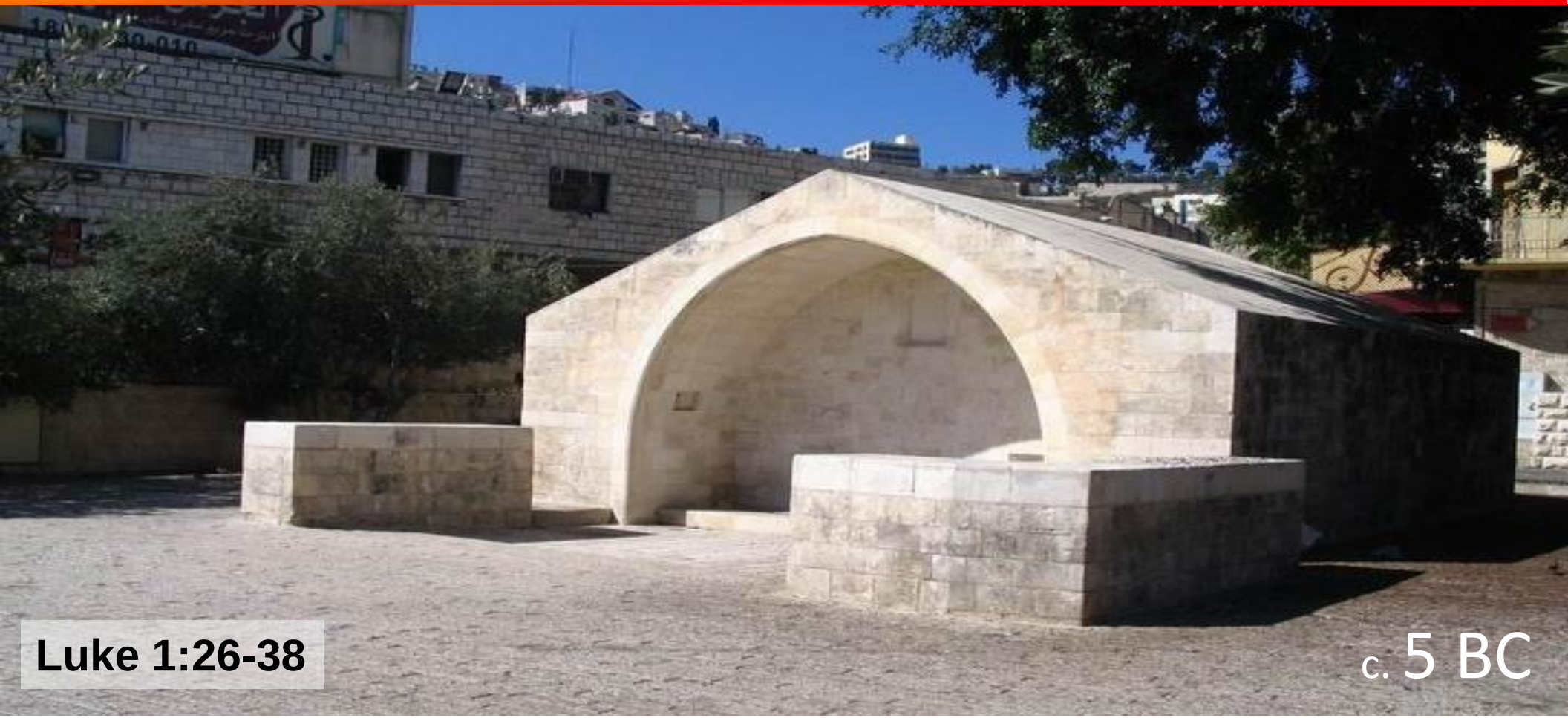
(http:/ /byzantinearch.blogspot.ca/2010/03/church-of-annunciation-biserica-bunei.html?m=l) (accessed December 7, 2018)

St. Mary's Spring is located inside the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Gabriel, which was built in 1767 in Nazareth. In the 3rd century a church was initially built around the site of Mary's Spring, based on the belief that this was an important Christian site. Although the New Testament does not record the location of the annunciation, the author of the Protoevangelium of James gives details about the annunciation. "And she took the pitcher and went forth to draw water, and behold, a voice said: 'Hail Mary, full of grace, you are blessed among women.'" According to this account, Mary was at the place to draw water, or a spring of water. This church was built in the Orthodox tradition where the Angel Gabriel met Mary and told her she would be the mother of the Son of God. The Catholic tradition, however, maintains that the site of the annunciation was the home of Mary. This natural spring in St. Gabriel's Church is the source of an ancient well around which the town of Nazareth was built. This is called the Fountain of the Virgin or the Well of Mary.

3 Mary's Well, near St. Gabriel Greek Orthodox Church

Nazareth, Galilee, Israel. *32°42'25.40"N, 35°18'5.64"E*

(https://biblewalks.com/sites/MarysWell.html) (accessed December 7, 2018)



In 1824, William Rae Wilson described the "Well of the Virgin" that gave water to the inhabitants of Nazareth. When he visited Nazareth, the population was about 1,500, most of whom were Christians. The house of Mary was there when he visited Nazareth, with the ruins of the Byzantine Monastery of the Annunciation that Empress Helena had built in the 4th century still visible. Women in ancient Israel would come to the well in town once or twice a day. It is likely that Mary came to this well, which is really a trough where water from a spring above (in St. Gabriel's Orthodox Church) would flow down to this well and be collected. The well of Mary structure was built in the 1800s, then demolished in the 1960s and rebuilt, but is no longer functional as of the 1960s.

4 Tombstone of Quintus Aemelius Secundus confirming Caesar's Census

Museo archaeologo nazionale, Venice, Italy. *45°26‘0.83”N, 12°20‘16.04"E*

(http://www.livius.org/pictures/lebanon/beirut-berytus/beirut-tombstone-of-q-aemilius-secundus/) (accessed December 7, 2018)

In 1764 construction workers found an interesting tombstone while building the St. George Orthodox Church in Beirut, Lebanon. The tombstone belonged to Quintus Aemilius Secundus and is dated to 20 AD. It mentions how Secundus conducted the census by order of Publius Sulpicius Quirinius during the time of Caesar Augustus and found the city of Apamea to have 117,000 citizens. This confirms the account of Luke 2:1-3 that Caesar Augustus ordered a census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. The tombstone is now located at the Museo archeologico nazionale in Venice, Italy.

5 Bethlehem Star - Conjunction of Venus, Jupiter, Regulus in Constellation Leo

Constellation of Leo, Google Sky Coordinates: 11h 00m 00s, +15° 00' 00.

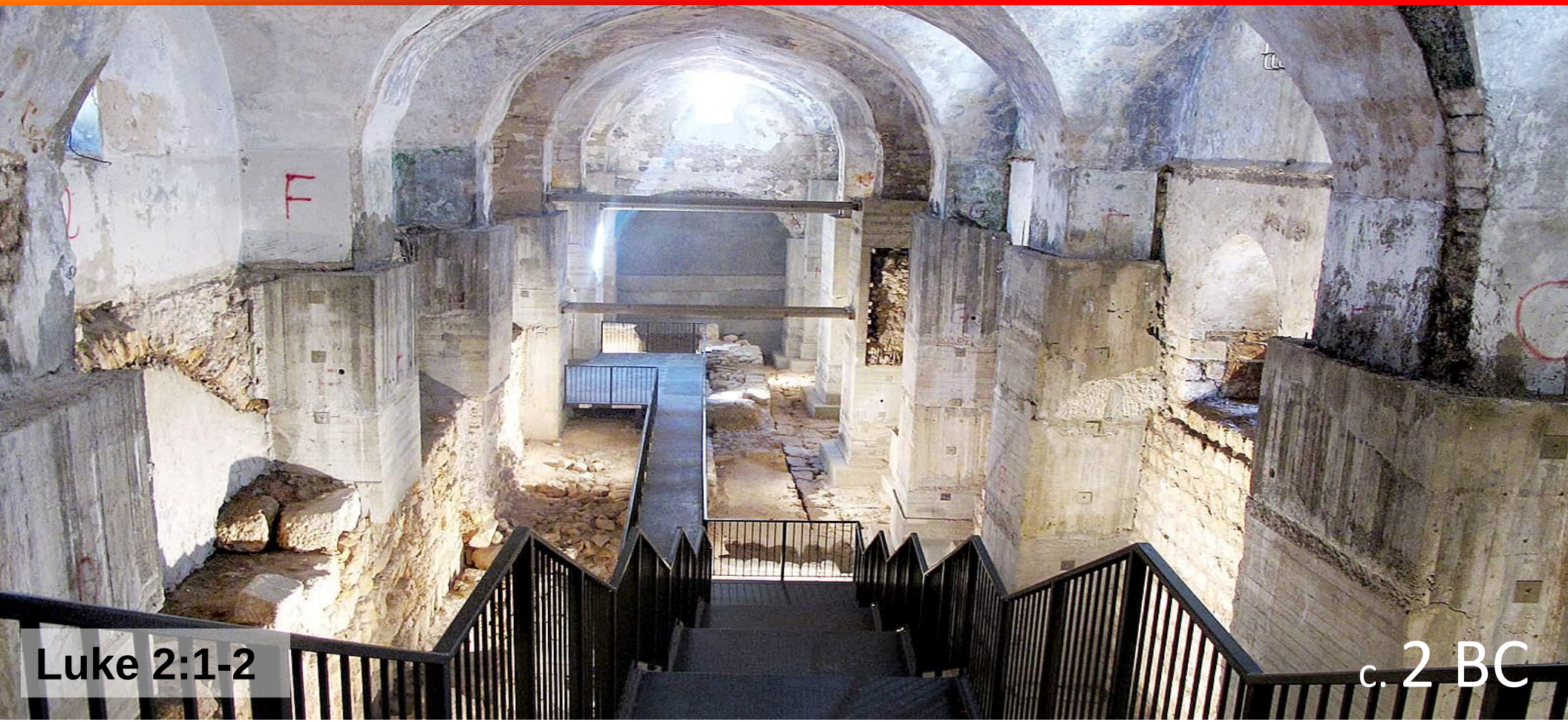
(http://antinousstars.blogspot.com/2015/06/venus-and-jupiter-align-in-leo-in.html) (accessed December 7, 2018)

In 2007, Dr. Frederick Larson used Starry Night, software based on Kepler's laws of planetary motion, and proposed the theory that the Star of Bethlehem as recorded in Matthew 2:1-10 was in fact the conjunction of the planets Venus and Jupiter with the star Regulus in the constellation of Leo. The conjunction of the three heavenly bodies occurred in June, 2 BC. The Bible also says that the star "stood over" where the young child was—this could be explained by the fact that Jupiter can seem to stop, as from the perspective of Earth it has retrograde motion.

6 King Herod the Great's Jerusalem Palace - Near Citadel of David

Citadel of David, Jerusalem, Israel. *31°46‘34.20”N, 35°13‘41.60"E*

(https://durangoherald.com/articles/84562) (accessed December 7, 2018)



In 1999, Israeli archaeologist Amit Re’em, of the Israeli Antiquities Authority, discovered Herod the Great’s palace along the western wall of Jerusalem. This discovery was made while excavations were underway within the former Kishle prison building in Jerusalem. This reinforces the geography of Matthew 2:1, which tells of how the Magi from the East came to see Herod the Great at his palace in Jerusalem.

7

The Herodium and Tomb Monument of King Herod

Za'tara, Palestinian Territories. *31°39'57.84"N, 35°14'31.51"E*

(http://www.israeltravelcompany.com/img/archeology/arch-01.jpg) (accessed December 7, 2018)

In 1972, Israeli archaeologist Dr. Ehud Netzer started excavations on the Herodium, an artificial hill built with slave labour. On top was Herod the Great's elaborate palace. In 2007 Netzer discovered Herod the Great's mausoleum and smashed sarcophagus in a tomb monument located partway up the hill. The reconstructed sarcophagus is now located in the Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

8

King Herod the Great's Sarcophagus found within the Herodium

Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel. *31°46‘34.20”N, 35°13‘41.60"E*

(https://holylandphotos.wordpress.com/2015/09/03/herod-the-greats-sarcophagus/) (accessed December 7, 2018)

In 2007, after extensive excavations of the Herodium, the tomb and sarcophagus of King Herod was found halfway up the man-made hill. The sarcophagus was made of well crafted pink limestone. No bones were found in the tomb and it was heavily smashed, most likely by Jewish patriots who resented the Roman appointed Herod and fought against Roman rule in the late 60s AD.

9

The Birthplace of Jesus Christ

Church of the Holy Nativity, Bethlehem, West Bank. *31°42‘15.59”N, 35°12‘27.21"E*

(https://pauseforthought.files.wordpress.com/2009/07/place-of-the-nativity-silver-star.jpg) (accessed December 7, 2018)

Luke 2:4-7

c. 4 BC

The Prophet Micah prophesied around 700 BC that the ruler in Israel, who was from everlasting, would come from Bethlehem, the birthplace of King David. In 1934, excavations beneath the sanctuary of the Church of the Holy Nativity in Bethlehem were carried out by W. Harvey, E. T. Richmond, H. Vincent, and R. W. Hamilton. Beautiful mosaics from the time of the Emperor Constantine in the 4th century were found. Empress Helena ordered this church to be built in 339 AD, and this church is the oldest church in the world that is still in use to this day. This verifies that this location has been considered to be the place of birth of Jesus Christ for nearly 17 centuries. Within the Church of the Holy Nativity is the Grotto of the Nativity. This was a cave which was typical of stables of the first century. Within the grotto is a first century manger and an altar with a silver 14-pointed star that marks the place of the birth of Jesus. The 14 points represent the 14 generations times 3 from Abraham to Jesus in Matthew’s gospel. Pilgrims touch the center of the star and feel the rock of the cave in the place of the birth of the Saviour.

10 The Bones of Bethlehem's children & adults killed by Herod

"Cave of the Innocents" Beneath Church of the Holy Nativity, Bethlehem, Palestine. *31°42'15.59"N, 35°12'27.21"E*

(https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2017/12/the-cave-with-relics-of-holy-innocents.html) (accessed December 7, 2018)

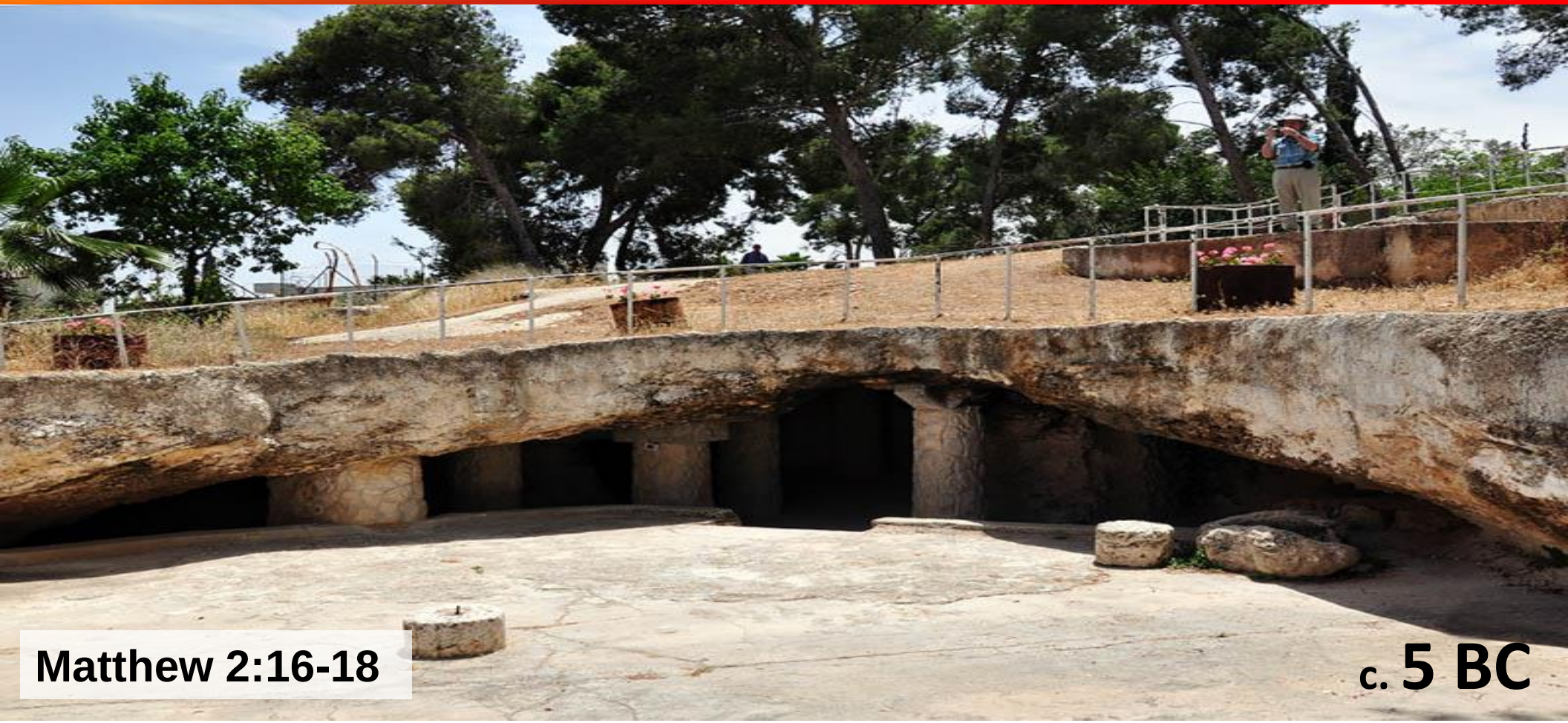
In 1962, excavations beneath the monastery of the Church of the Holy Nativity were conducted by Dr. Bellarmino Bagatti, an Italian Franciscan friar and archaeologist. Within the Grotto of the Innocents are many ancient bones, presumably from the 1st century, of people of various ages who had been exhumed in the days of Constantine and his mother Helena and reburied together in this cave.

11

Traditional Cave of the Shepherds near Bethlehem

YMCA Shepherd's Fields, Bayt Sahur, Palestine. 31°41'36.46"N, 35°13'53.84"E

(https://ferrelljenkins.blog/2013/12/25/visiting-the-shepherds-fields-near-bethlehem/) (accessed December 7, 2018)



In 1951, excavations were carried out by archaeologist and Franciscan friar Virgilio Corbo, and traces of human occupation, including ancient oil presses of the 1st century, were found. Tradition from the 4th century names this as the place the angels appeared to the shepherds the night the Lord Jesus was born. The present sanctuary on these grounds was built in 1953.

12

The Bed where Jesus slept as a toddler in Egypt, now an Altar

al-Muharraq Monastery, Egypt. 27° 26’ 40” N, 30° 49’ 0” E

(https://www.mikemasonbooks.com/bed-of-stone-chapter-8-of-jesus-his-story-in-stone/central-altar-el-morarak/#main) (accessed December 7, 2018)

Matthew 2:20

According to Egyptian Orthodox tradition, the Holy Family (Jesus, Mary and Joseph) came to Egypt and went from place to place for about 3 years. The al Muharraq monastery is in the middle of Egypt and marks the place where the Holy Family stayed for about 6 months. Within the monastery in Chapel of Mary there is an altar which is made of a semicircular piece of marble with an inscription in Greek dating to 746 AD which reads: “"O, Lord repose the blessed Kulthos“. This altar is the oldest Christian altar in the world and the church consecrated by Jesus Christ Himself. Tradition states that in the first century the child Jesus slept on this marble slab as a bed for half a year. This altar is a fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 19:19: “In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the middle of the land of Egypt”. According to tradition it was also here in this place where the angel appeared to Joseph in a dream telling him to go back to the land of Israel after King Herod’s death.

13

Possible Family Home of Jesus in Nazareth

Sisters of Nazareth Convent, Nazareth, Israel. *32°42'8.60"N, 35°17'50.32"E*

(https://www.livescience.com/49997-jesus-house-possibly-found-nazareth.html/) (accessed December 7, 2018)

The Holy Family returned from Egypt to Nazareth, the town where Jesus spent most of His earthly life. The word Nazareth comes from the Hebrew word for Branch, netzer. In Isaiah 11, we read that the Messiah would be from the line of Jesse and be known as a Branch, netzer. Then the prophet Zechariah foretold that the man whose name is the BRANCH will grow up out of his place and build the temple of the LORD. The Messiah was known as Jesus of Nazareth. In 2006, Dr. Ken Dark, a British archaeologist from the University of Reading, discovered a 1st century Jewish dwelling in the grounds of the Sisters of Nazareth convent. It was a two-storey house with two cisterns for water. It was occupied during the 1st century, then abandoned and used as a burial place with a rolling stone tomb. Then in Byzantine and Crusader times it was a place of Christian worship with an altar indicating that it was a place of pilgrimage. It was known as the Church of Nutrition, where Jesus Christ was nourished and raised in Nazareth.

14

The Sixth Century Madaba Map of the Holy Land

St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Madaba, Jordan. *32°42'8.60"N, 35°17'50.32"E*

(https://www.lonelyplanet.com/jordan/madaba/attractions/st-george-s-church-mosaic-map/a/poi-sig/1105945/361078/) (accessed December 7, 2018)

In 1884, while building the Church of St. George in Madaba, Jordan, builders uncovered a floor mosaic map of the Holy Land. It originally measured 7 m by 21 m (22 feet by 69 feet) and is the oldest original surviving cartographic depiction of the Holy Land, especially Jerusalem. It is dated to the years 542 to 570 AD, and although it has some inaccuracies, it can be helpful by showing the approximate location of the place of baptism of Jesus.

15

The Place of Jesus' Baptism

Al-Maghtas, Jordan. *31°50'14.33"N, 35°33'0.24"E*

(https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/world-heritage/baptism-site-al-maghtas-jordan/) (accessed December 8, 2018)

Matthew 3:13-17

c. 29 AD

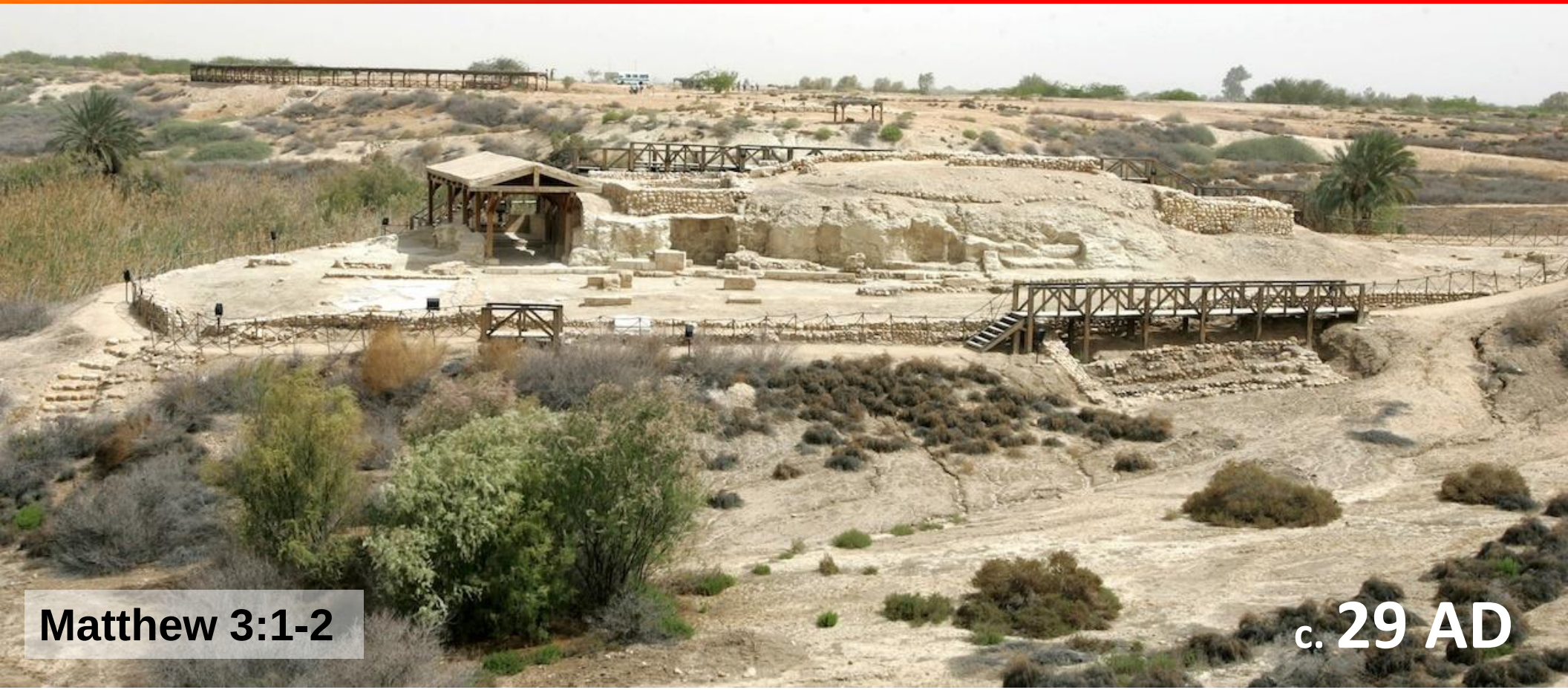
In 1998, following the clues from the Madaba map, Franciscan friar Dr. Michele Piccirillo found the actual location of the baptism of Jesus Christ. At the site are the remains of the Byzantine Church of St. John the Baptist with a cross-shaped baptismal font, the only one of its kind in the world. This is remembered as the place where John baptized Jesus, and for centuries during Byzantine times thousands of believers were baptized at this site. After being baptized, pilgrims carved crosses to commemorate their baptism. Crosses can be seen by the hundreds here. Ancient pilgrims such as Theodosius, the Piacenza pilgrim, and Abbott Daniel all wrote about the location. Their descriptions matched this place perfectly.

16

The Home of John the Baptist and Elijah's Hill

Al-Maghtas, Jordan. *31°50'10.43"N, 35°33'10.25"E*

(http://www.baptismsite.com/elijahs-hill/) (accessed December 8, 2018)



John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy over 700 years beforehand and Malachi's prophecy over 400 years earlier. Then in 1998, after the discovery of the actual baptism site, Dr. Mohammed Waheeb, a Jordanian archaeologist, discovered the ruins of a Byzantine-era church and monastery constructed where it was believed that John the Baptist had lived. Jesus came to this place to get away from angry people who wanted to harm him and to be with John the Baptist. At that place many believed in Jesus. Hundreds of monks lived in this area over many centuries, wanting to get close to God and live a life stripped of possessions just as John the Baptist did.

17

The Place of Jesus' Temptation for 40 days

Mount Quarantania, West Bank. *31° 52′ 26″ N, 35° 25′ 53″ E*

(http://mathewsgoodnews.blogspot.com/2015/02/matthew-4-8-11-third-temptation-of-jesus.html) (accessed December 8, 2018)

Matthew 4:1-11

c. 29 AD

This site is believed to be the place where Jesus fasted forty days and nights and was tempted by the devil. At this location is the Greek Orthodox Monastery of the Temptation. Empress Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Cave of the Temptation in 326 AD. The cave became a monastery in the 6th century and it is now staffed by Orthodox monks who lead tours for visitors.

18 The Fortress of Machaerus, Place of John the Baptist's Execution

Machaerus, Madaba Region, Jordan. *31°34'1.93"N, 35°37'28.17"E*

(http://www.terrasanta.net/tsx/showPage.jsp?wi_number=5030) (accessed December 8, 2018)

Matthew 14:1-12

c. 32 AD

In 1807 Dr. Ulrich Jasper Seetzen, a German doctor and explorer, discovered the fortress of Machaerus. This is where John the Baptist was imprisoned and beheaded, and although the gospel does not give a location in Matthew 14:1-12, the writings of Flavius Josephus tell us that these events took place here. This is where John the Baptist spent his final days.

19

Cana where Jesus changed water to wine

Wedding Church at Cana, Kafr Khanna, Galilee, Israel. 32°44'49.06"N, 35°20'19.45"E

(https://holyplaces.tv/wedding-church-cana/) (accessed December 8, 2018)

The Cana Catholic Wedding Church in Kafr Kanna, built in 1883, sits on top of ruins of what many believe to be Cana of Galilee in Khirbet Kana. In 1997, excavations by Father Eugenio Alliata, an Italian Franciscan archaeologist, uncovered ruins of houses from the 1st-4th centuries AD and structures from Byzantine times. An inscription in Aramaic was found which reads: "In memory of the pious Joseph, son of Tanhum, son of Bota and of his children who made this table, may it be for them a blessing, Amen." A winepress was found at the site as well as large stone jars that could have been preserved as the jars Jesus used to turn water into wine.

20

Alternate location of Cana where Jesus changed water to wine

Netofa Valley, Galilee, Israel. 32°49'19.55"N, 35°18'9.92"E

(https://nypost.com/2018/08/30/experts-say-lost-tunnels-in-israel-could-be-where-jesus-turned-water-into-wine/#) (accessed December 7, 2018)

To the north-northwest of the Cana Catholic wedding church which has evidence of a small village from the Hellenistic period (which began in 323 BC) onwards. This village contained a mikveh, used for Jewish ritual bathing, and a structure that resembles a Roman-era synagogue. A cave complex at the southern end shows that it was used as a Christian place of worship with an altar decorated by a Maltese-style cross and two stone jars with room for another four jars, matching the gospel description.

21

Synagogue in Nazareth Where Jesus Preached

Nazareth, Galilee, Israel. 32° 42′ 12″ N, 35° 17′ 48″ E

(http://www.israelandyou.com/synagogue-church-nazereth/) (accessed December 8, 2018)

The Synagogue Church is a 12th Century church built by the Crusaders. According to tradition, it is built upon the exact site of the 1st century synagogue where Jesus learned, grew up, preached and was rejected by his own fellow Nazarenes. It was in the care of the Franciscans for centuries until the 18th century when the ruler Daher al-Omar gave it to the Greek Catholics. It is now in the care of the Melchite Catholic Church, which built a modern church next door in 1887.

22

Mount Precipice in Nazareth where Jesus rejected

Nazareth, Galilee, Israel. 32°41'6.00"N, 35°17'54.55"E

(http://www.nazareth360.com/discover/mount-precipice) (accessed December 8, 2018)

The prophet Isaiah foretold the coming Messiah's rejection. He wrote: "He was despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him" (Isaiah 53:3). About 2 km to the south of the center of the city of Nazareth is a cliff which rises to an elevation of 395 m. Here is the place where the unbelieving Nazarenes brought Jesus from the synagogue in order to throw Him down and kill Him. Miraculously, Jesus walked right through the crowd and went on His way to Capernaum. He left Nazareth from the tribe of Zebulun and came to Capernaum in the tribe of Naphtali to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah.

23

The Place of the Call of the First Disciples

Capernaum, Galilee, Israel. 32°53'12.30"N, 35°35'21.29"E

(http://journeys.americamedia.org/2017/02/27/holy-land-2017-day-one-capernaum/) (accessed December 8, 2018)

The prophet Isaiah foretold that the Great Light would come to Galilee, first the Land of Zebulun, where Nazareth is located, then the Land of Naphtali, where Capernaum is located. Somewhere along the northern shoreline of the Sea of Galilee near the city of Capernaum is where Jesus fulfilled prophecy and called His disciples in Matthew 4:18-22. Here, Peter, Andrew, James and John left their nets and livelihood and followed Jesus.

24

First Century Fishing Boat Discovered and Restored

Yigal Alon Museum, Ginosar, Galilee, Israel. 32°50'39.49"N, 35°31'30.61"E

(http://www.journeytoholyland.com/the-jesus-boat/) (accessed December 8, 2018)

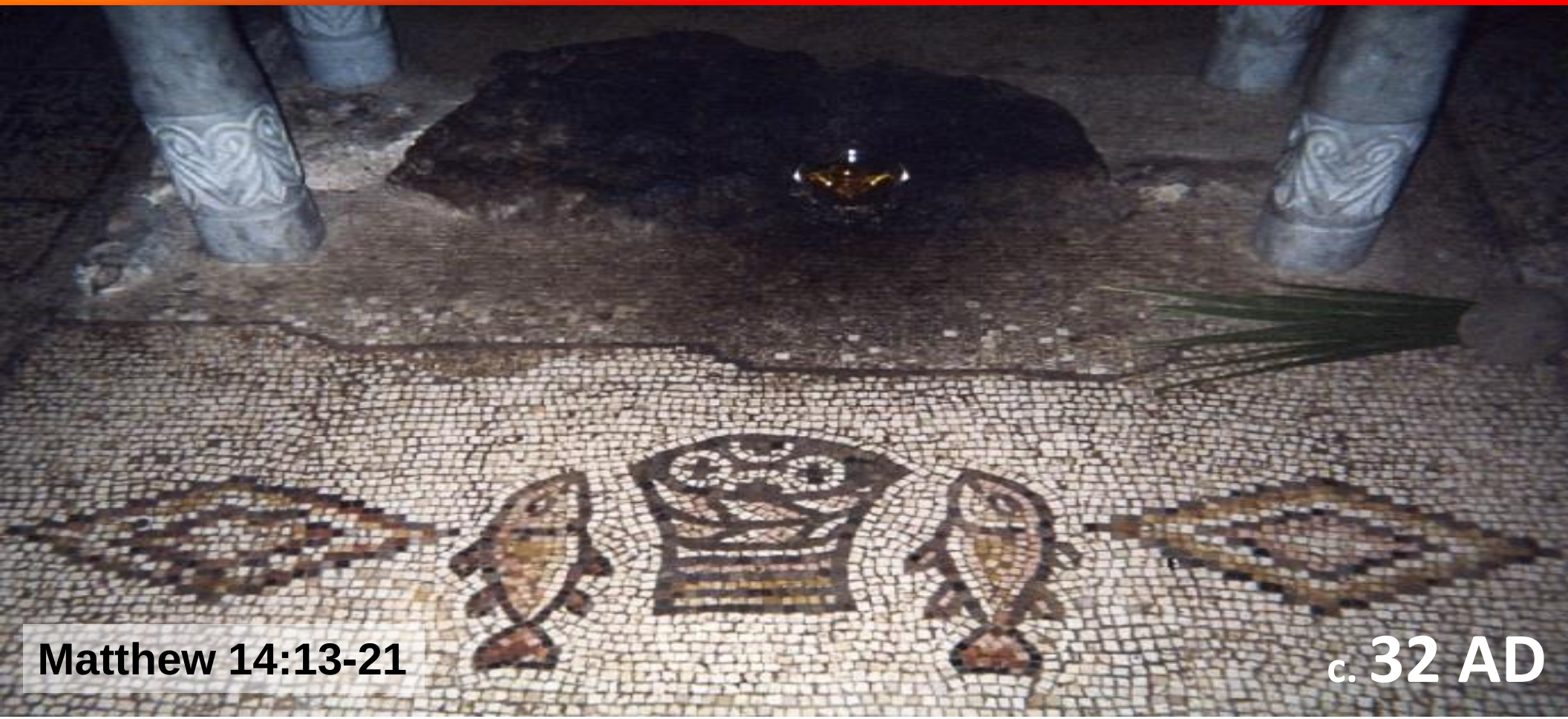
In 1986, two Israeli fishermen, Moshe and Yuval Lufan, discovered something sticking out of the beach. It was an ancient, well-crafted boat that had been buried in the sand for 2,000 years. It would have been the type of boat that Jesus and his disciples used on the Sea of Galilee. It was carefully restored and is now on display at the Yigal Alon Museum in Ginosar, Israel.

25

The Place of the Feeding of 5,000

Church of the Multiplication, Tabgha, Galilee, Israel. 32°52'23.75"N, 35°32'54.84"E

(http://www.israeljerusalem.com/tabgha-israel.htm) (accessed December 8, 2018)



Matthew 14:13-21

c. 32 AD

The prophet Micah foretold that the One to be Ruler in Israel would stand and feed His flock and that this One would be great to the ends of the earth. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy when He literally fed thousands with one boy's lunch. In 381 AD the Spanish pilgrim Lady Egeria described the place where Jesus placed the loaves and fishes on a rock, which is now an altar. In that place He multiplied the loaves and fish to feed 5,000 men plus women and children. A Benedictine Catholic church called the Church of the Multiplication was built around the site in 1982. The building next to this beautiful church was burned down in 2015 by radical Israeli youths who were arrested and indicted on charges of arson. However, the main part of the church, and especially the altar, was unharmed by the fire.

26

Synagogue where Jesus attended in Capernaum

Synagogue in Capernaum, Galilee, Israel. 32°52'51.40"N, 35°34'31.46"E

(https://beitlechem.life/sdslide/my-slidedeck/ruins-of-ancient-synagogue-in-capernaum-israel/) (accessed December 8, 2018)

Mark 1:21-28

c. 32 AD

In 1866, British cartographer Captain Charles W. Wilson discovered this ancient late 4th century synagogue in Capernaum. The upper level of white limestone was then partially restored as it stands today. However, it stands on an older 1st century synagogue made of black basalt. This lower synagogue was the one where Jesus cast out a demon and gave his sermon on Him being the Bread of Life (John 6:25-59).

27

Peter's house in Capernaum where Jesus lived

Capernaum, Galilee, Israel. 32°52'49.30"N, 35°34'31.45"E

(https://www.mikemasonbooks.com/peters-house-chapter-20-of-jesus-his-story-in-stone/) (accessed December 8, 2018)

Matthew 8:5,14

c. 30 AD

In 1921, Italian archaeologist and Franciscan friar Gaudenzio Orfali discovered the octagonal remains of a Byzantine basilica in Capernaum. Orfali was tragically killed in a car accident in 1926 and further excavations were put on hold. Later, in 1968, Italian archaeologist and Franciscan friar Virgilio Corbo, along with other friars, excavated further under the centre of the octagonal church. They discovered that it was built around a 1st century home which had been venerated from the time of Christ through to the Arab period. It is almost certain that this is the home of Peter, his wife and mother-in-law and the home where Jesus also lived. Over top of the 1st century home a large memorial sanctuary was erected in 1990, and friar Corbo received his final wish to be buried next to the long-venerated room of St. Peter in 1991.

28

The Mount of the Beatitudes where Jesus Preached

Near Capernaum, Galilee, Israel. 32°52'55.63"N, 35°33'18.99"E

(http://cannundrum.blogspot.com/2015/07/the-sermon-on-mount-galilee-israel.html) (accessed December 8, 2018)

Matthew 8:5,14

c. 30 AD

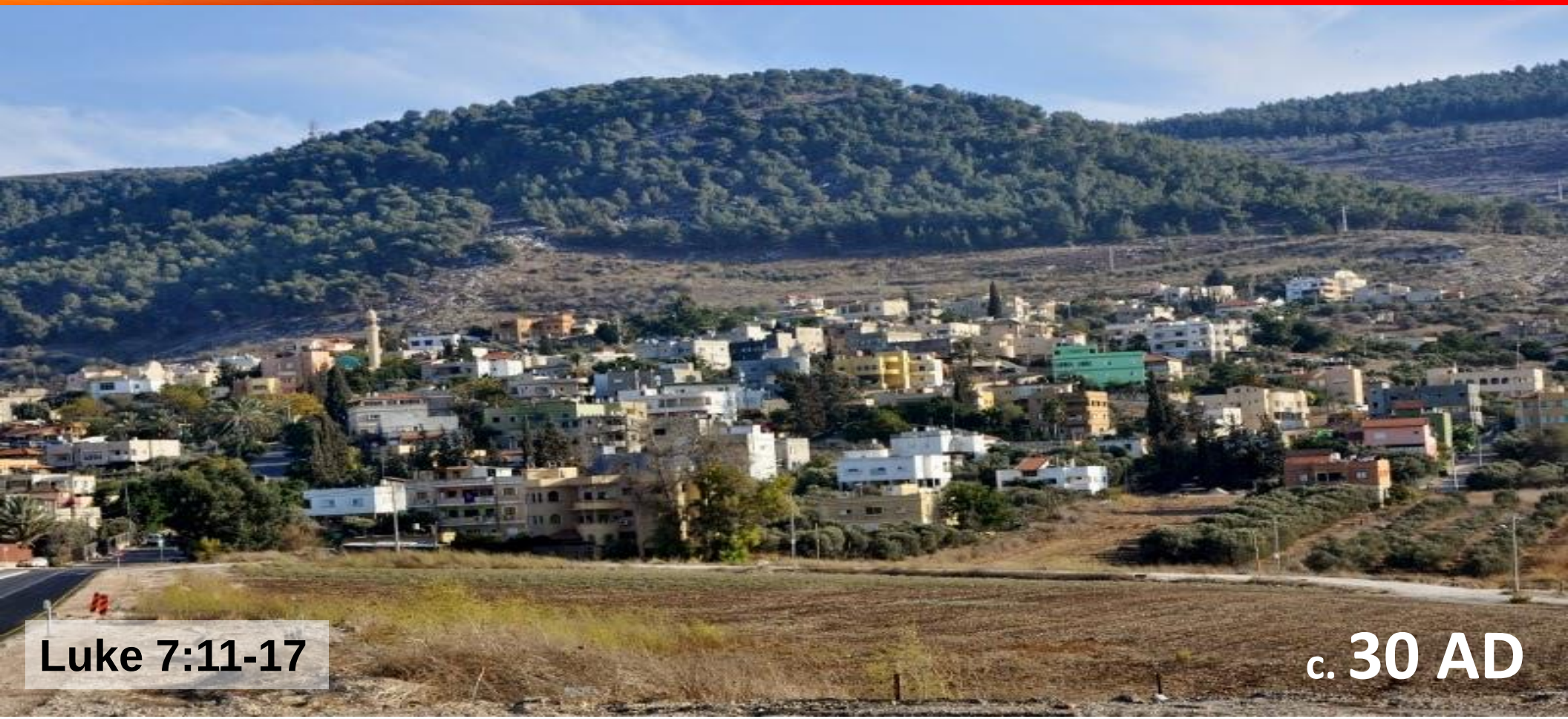
In the year 381 AD, the Spanish pilgrim Lady Egeria spoke of a cave in the hillside at the Seven Springs, near Tabgha, “upon which the Lord ascended when he taught the Beatitudes”. The terrace above this still-existing cave, called Mughara Ayub, is considered the traditional place where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. A Byzantine church was erected nearby in the 4th century, but is now in ruins. Uphill from this structure is the Church of the Beatitudes built in 1938 by the Italian Franciscans.

29

The City of Nain where Jesus raised a man from the dead

Nein, Galilee, Israel. 32°37'60.00"N, 35°21'0.00"E

(http://thechristiancurmudgeonmo.blogspot.com/2014/10/jesus-disrupts-funeral.html) (accessed December 8, 2018)



In 1838, the famous Edward Robinson, known as the “Father of Biblical geography”, identified the city of Nain on his travels to Palestine. This is the city where Jesus raised the widow’s son from death. To commemorate the miracle of Luke 7:11-17, the Franciscan order built a church here in 1880.

30

Bethsaida, hometown of Peter, where Blind man healed

Northeast of Sea of Galilee, Israel. 32°54'32.33"N, 35°37'51.52"E

(https://bibleistrue.com/qna/pqna40.htm) (accessed December 8, 2018)

In 1987, Dr. Rami Arav, an Israeli archaeologist, began excavations of the ancient Bethsaida. He uncovered ruins from the time of King David, when it was the capital of the kingdom of Geshur. This city was destroyed, and by the time of Jesus it was a Jewish fishing village. Peter, Andrew and Philip all came from Bethsaida. In this place, Jesus laid hands on a blind man who saw men like trees walking and who was then completely healed.

31

The Place of the Deliverance of the Demon Possessed Men

Kursi, Galilee, Israel. 32°49'22.00"N, 35°39'9.94"E

(https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kursi_(Wzg%C3%B3rza_Golan)#/media/File:Kursi0036.JPG) (accessed December 9, 2018)

In 1970, road works accidentally revealed the walls of a Byzantine monastery. Further excavation by Dr. Vassilios Tzaferis, a Greek-born Israeli archaeologist, revealed the largest monastery in Israel, which was built to commemorate the place where Jesus cast demons out of the demon-possessed men. There are tombs built into the hill as described in the gospels, and the lake floor plunges off abruptly, which understandably led to the death of 2,000 pigs as recorded in Matthew's gospel.

32

The Mount of Transfiguration – Mount Tabor

Mount Tabor, Galilee, Israel. 32°41'13.61"N, 35°23'25.38"E

(https://galileegreen.com/mount-tabor-bowl-meal-in-a-mound/) (accessed December 9, 2018)

The Prophet Micah foretold that the Lord would tread upon the high places of the earth. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy when He was transfigured on the holy mountain. During Byzantine times a church and monastery were built on Mount Tabor. This location was also identified by Origen in the 3rd century. In total, 4,300 steps were built up to the top in the 4th century, and it became an important pilgrimage site. By the 8th century there were four churches and a monastery on the summit. According to tradition, this is the place where Jesus revealed Himself to Peter, James and John as much more than a man, but as God and man, according to Matthew 17:1-9. Now the Church of the Transfiguration stands on the summit of Mount Tabor.

33

Jacob's Well in Samaria where Jesus met the woman at the well

Church of St. Photina, Nablus, West Bank. 32°12'42.74"N, 35°16'39.71"E

(https://barbaralicious.com/en/nablus-and-jenin/) (accessed December 9, 2018)

This is the place where Jesus met with the woman from Samaria and asked her for a drink of water in John 4:1-26. During Byzantine times the site was identified as Jacob's well and was used for baptisms. American Biblical scholar Edward Robinson visited the site in the mid-1800s and said that Jacob's well was a "shapeless mass of ruins". Then the Greek Orthodox church obtained the site in 1860 and built the beautiful Church of St. Photini, (the Samaritan woman's name by tradition), around the well, which has a depth of 41 m. Sadly, in 1979 Israeli extremists brutally killed the custodian of the well, Archimandrite Philoumenos, as they wanted the area to be a Jewish holy site only. In 2009, thirty years after the custodian's martyrdom, he was declared St. Philoumenos.

34

Caesarea Philippi, near where Peter declared Jesus as Messiah

Banias, Golan Heights, Israel. 33°14'46.32"N, 35°41'38.79"E

(https://bibleistrue.com/qna/pqna45.htm) (accessed December 9, 2018)

The ruins of Caesarea Philippi are also called Banias, named after the Greek god Pan, the half-goat, half-man god whose shriek could cause fright (thus the word “Panic”). It was a large center of pagan worship in the time of Jesus. The Grotto of Pan is where worshippers would cast sacrifices into the cave. Banias is situated at the base of Mount Hermon. Jesus and his disciples were on a road near Caesarea Philippi when Jesus asked the question “Who do men say that I am?” This is where Peter declared “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God”.

35

The Place where Jesus called Zacchaeus

Jericho, West Bank. 31°51'33.01"N, 35°27'25.64"E

(https://estherspetition.wordpress.com/2014/10/10/zacchaeus-poor-rich-man) (accessed December 9, 2018)

At this spot, on the grounds of the Convent of the Good Shepherd in Jericho, Zacchaeus, a man of short stature, climbed the sycamore fig tree in order to see Jesus as He was passing by. Some believe this tree to be the actual tree that Zacchaeus climbed. Nearby is a little room surrounded by glass with a very old sycamore fig trunk which the Orthodox Church believes is the actual tree of Zacchaeus. Either way, evidence shows that the sycamore fig tree mentioned in Luke 19:1-10 was somewhere in this vicinity.

36

The Tomb of Lazarus in Bethany

Al-Eizariya, West Bank. 31°46'11.94"N, 35°15'51.63"E

(https://blog.obitel-minsk.com/2018/03/exploring-tomb-of-lazarus.html) (accessed December 9, 2018)

In the year 330 AD, Eusebius of Caesarea mentions visiting the tomb of Lazarus as described in John 11:1-45. By the year 390 AD there was a church dedicated to Lazarus at this site called the Lazarium. In the 16th century the al-Uzair Mosque was built on this site. In modern times, 24 steps descend from the street level to a place of prayer, then a few more steps descend to the antechamber, dating to the first century, where Jesus would have stood. From here Jesus called to Lazarus in his tomb, which was only 2 m^2. Here Lazarus was raised to life after four days of death.

37

The Pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed the lame man

Muslim Quarter, Jerusalem, Israel. 31°46'11.94"N, 35°15'51.63"E

(https://swordsoftruth.com/2014/04/08/pool-of-bethesda-the-healing-of-the-paralytic/) (accessed December 9, 2018)

The Prophet Isaiah foretold that God would come and save His people – then the lame shall leap like a deer. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy when He healed the lame man at Bethesda. In 1888, Conrad Schick, a German architect and archaeologist, discovered the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem. It is only 125 m away from the Sheep Gate (later renamed the Lion's Gate), following the Biblical description. Later in 1964, after further excavation, it was discovered that Byzantine and Crusader-era churches were built on the site to commemorate the miracle of the healing of the lame man in John 5:1-9.

38

The Pool of Siloam where Jesus healed the blind man

Jerusalem, Israel. 31°46'13.18"N, 35°14'7.19"E

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfmefLuioVo) (accessed December 9, 2018)

The Prophet Isaiah foretold that God would come and save His people – then the eyes of the blind would be opened. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy when He opened the eyes of the blind man. In 2004, workers who were repairing a large water pipe drainage system uncovered ancient steps. Then Dr. Ronny Reich and Eli Shukron, both Israeli archaeologists, excavated further and discovered that this is the Biblical site of the Pool of Siloam, fed by the Gihon spring, in the city of David in southern Jerusalem. Further excavation is difficult as the rest of the pool lies underneath property owned by the Greek Orthodox Church. This is the place where Jesus said to the blind man to go and wash after he put mud on the man's eyes in John 9:1-7.

39

The Fallen Tower of Siloam

Jerusalem, Israel. 31°46'22.73"N, 35°14'11.00"E

(https://watchjerusalem.co.il/26-uncovering-the-bibles-buried-cities-jerusalem) (accessed December 9, 2018)

The Tower of Siloam protected the Gihon Spring, which provided the city of David with the clean spring water that ran downhill into the pool of Siloam. Excavating in this area, Dr. Ronny Reich and Eli Shukron uncovered massive fortification boulders dating back to 1800 B.C., the Canaanite period, when the Jebusites lived in the city—well before David's conquest. It is clear that the springs of Gihon have been protected for millennia. In Luke 13:1-9 we read how 18 people were killed when the Tower of Siloam fell on them. Ruins of the base of this tower and fallen stones are still visible.

40

Roman Denarius of Tiberius Caesar

Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel. 31°46'19.39"N, 35°12'14.73"E

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tribute_penny#/media/File:Emperor_Tiberius_Denarius_-_Tribute_Penny.jpg) (accessed December 9, 2018)

Matthew 22:15-22

c. 33 AD

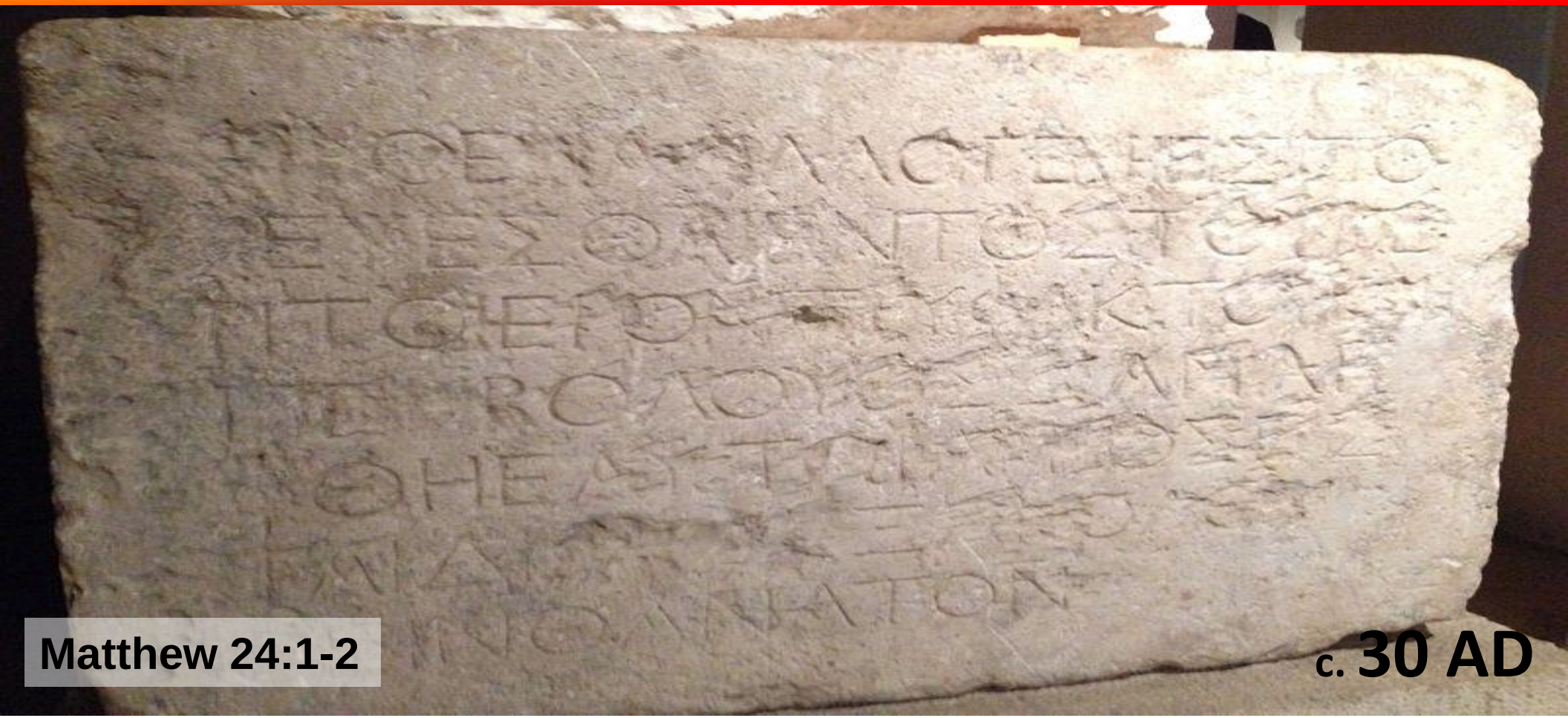
Jesus was questioned in Matthew 22:15-21 about whether or not to pay taxes to Caesar. Jesus asks the Pharisees to show Him the denarius. This denarius is a tribute penny of Tiberius Caesar, rare coins that can be purchased on eBay and are also on display in the Israel Museum. The coin was minted during the reign of Emperor Tiberius Caesar, 14-37 AD.

41

Herod's Temple Evidence – Temple Warning Inscription

Istanbul Archaeology Museum, Istanbul, Turkey. 41°0'39.14"N, 28°58'53.97"E

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_Warning_inscription#/media/File:Jerusalem_Temple_Warning_Inscription.jpg) (accessed December 9, 2018)



Matthew 24:1-2

c. 30 AD

The prophet Malachi foretold that the Lord, the Messenger of the Covenant, would come suddenly to His temple and would purify the priests, the sons of Levi. Jesus came to the temple from just eight days old to just a few days before His death at 33. There He made a whip out of cords and drove money changers from the temple and rebuked the chief priests in fulfillment of the prophecy. Herod's Temple was built starting in 19 B.C. and it was the center and heart of the Jewish faith. In 1871, Charles Simon Clermont Ganneau, a French archaeologist, discovered a thick marble slab north of the temple mount in Jerusalem with an inscription in Greek which reads: "No foreigner is to enter within the balustrade and forecourt along the sacred precinct. Whoever is caught will himself be responsible for (his) consequent death." This inscription is located at the Istanbul Archaeology Museum.

42

Herod's Temple Floor tiles discovered

Temple Mount, Jerusalem, Israel. 31°46'40.60"N, 35°14'7.44"E

(https://patternsofevidence.com/blog/2016/09/15/magnificent-flooring-from-jerusalems-second-temple-unearthed/) (accessed December 9, 2018)

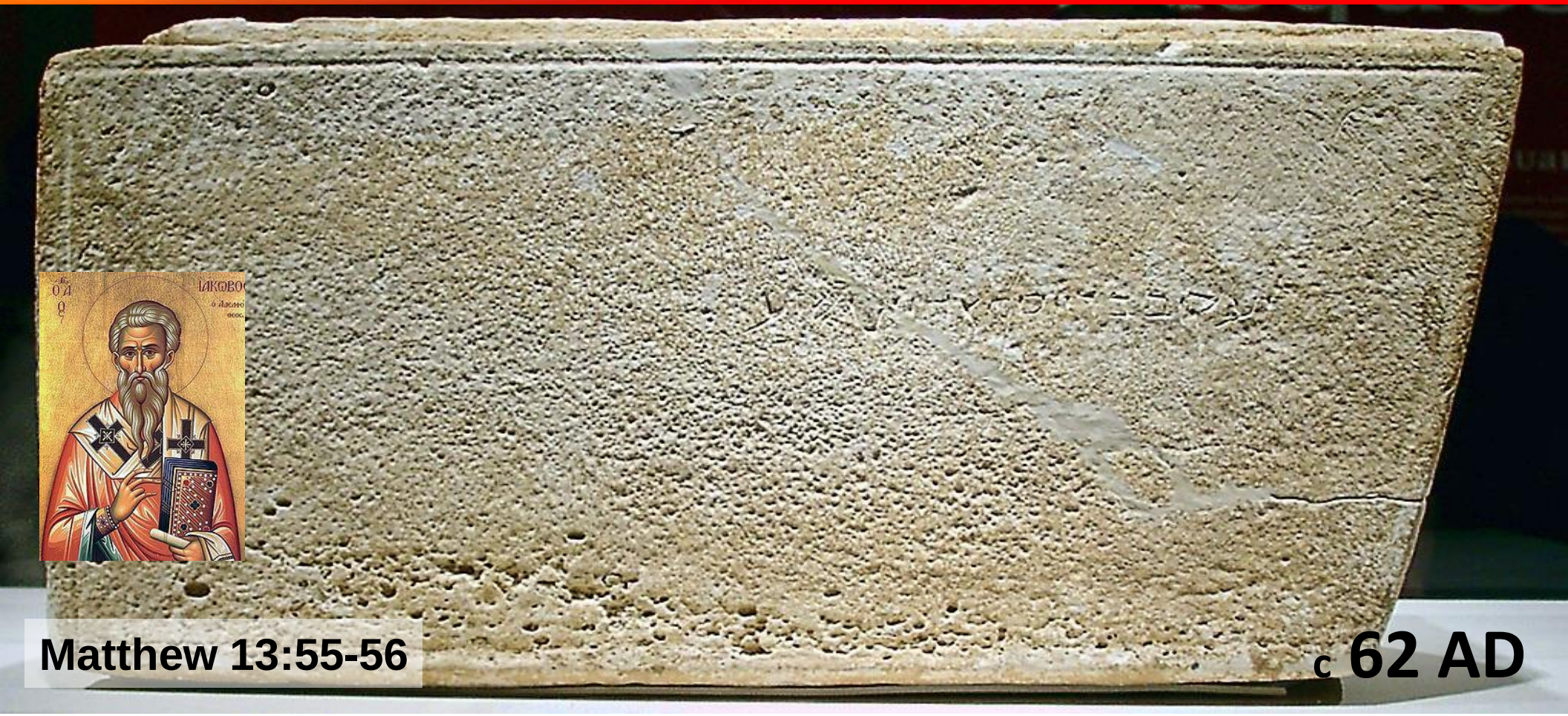
Just recently an examination of landfill by the Temple Mount sifting project under Israeli archaeologist Gabriel Barkay is uncovering pieces of the tiles from Herod's temple. These tiles were ornate and multicolored. Likely Herod's temple was the crowning jewel of his building projects. It was the centerpiece of the Jewish faith and fabulously decorated. This is why the disciples were so impressed with the buildings of the temple in Matthew 24:1-2.

43

Ossuary of James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus

Private Collection of Oded Golan in Tel Aviv, Israel. 32° 4′ 0″ N, 34° 47′ 0″ E

(https://thespiritualforge.blogspot.com/2012/03/james-ossuary-verdict-does-it-matter.html) (accessed December 10, 2018)



Matthew 13:55-56

c 62 AD

A stone box containing the bones of James, the half-brother of Jesus and leader of the Jerusalem church, was purchased in the 1970s for a few hundred dollars by Oded Golan, an Israeli engineer. He kept it for years with no idea what the inscription meant. When it was later examined, the ossuary read: “Jacob (James) son of Joseph, Brother of Jesus”. James was the half-brother of Jesus according to Matthew 13:55-56. This ossuary was examined by Andre Lemaire, French Epigraphist and later Israeli Paleographer, Ada Yardeni. In 2002 Lemaire declared it to the world as the ossuary of James the brother of Jesus Christ. However, this discovery was later contested by the Israel Antiquities Authority and Oded Golan was charged with forgery. Ada Yardeni, after examining the ossuary and inscription, said: “If this is a forgery, I quit!” After an almost 8 year trial in an Israeli court, Oded Golan was cleared of all charges, for the court could not prove it was a forgery. Even Israeli archaeologist Gabriel Barkay believes it to be authentic. It is therefore the oldest written inscription referring to Jesus Christ.

44 Place where Jesus Wept Over Jerusalem

Dominus Flevit Church, Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, Israel. 31°46'40.15"N, 35°14'30.24"E

(https://www.holylandtourstravel.com/index.php/christian-holy-land-tours-travel-guide/item/31-pray-at-dominus-flevit-church-in-the-mount-of-olives-in-jerusalem-during-your-holy-land-tour

Luke 13:34

c 33 AD

In 1953, Dr. Bellarmino Bagatti, a Franciscan monk and archaeologist, began excavations at this site which overlooks Jerusalem. It was here where our Lord wept over the city. In Latin this is called “Dominus Flevit” and this is the name of the church that is built at that site. During Byzantine times there was a chapel in this location with mosaic floors. This site was later used by the Crusaders who must have known its importance. While construction was taking place on the church an amazing find was discovered. The oldest Christian cemetery ever found was located there. Ossuaries with inscriptions such as “Simon bar Jonah”, “Mary / Martha” and “Sapphira” were found at this location. It was here where Jesus declared His love for Jerusalem and wept for the people of Israel.

45

Ossuaries of Simon son of Jonah, Mary, Martha and Sapphira

Dominus Flevit Church Grounds, Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, Israel. 31°46'40.15"N, 35°14'30.24"E

(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Holy_Land_2016_P0666_Dominus_Flevit_Church_ossuary.jpg) (accessed December 13, 2018)

Luke 13:34

c 62 AD

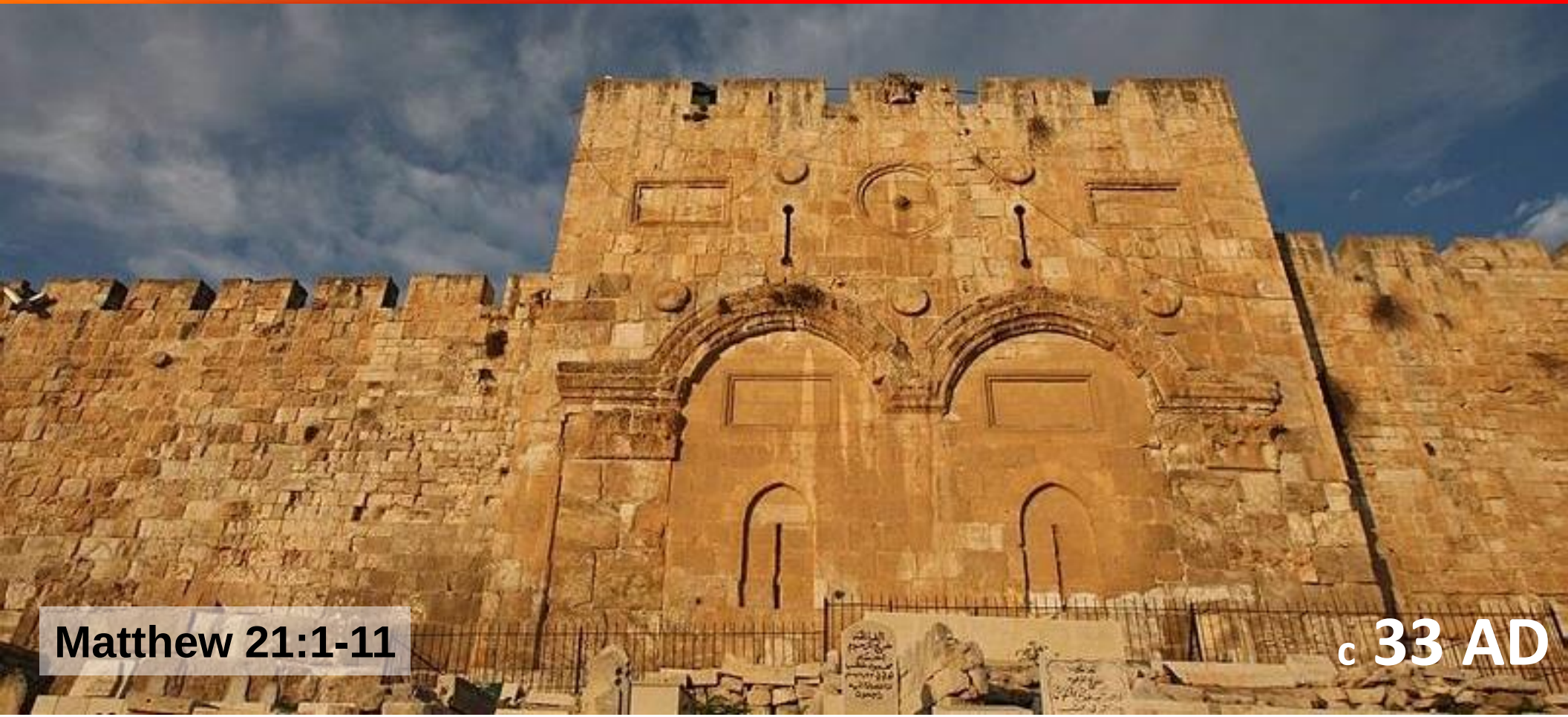
In 1953, while excavating on the Mount of Olives before the construction of the Dominus Flevit Church on this hill where Jesus wept for Jerusalem, Italian Franciscan archaeologist Dr. Father Bellarmino Bagatti found many ossuaries in three different caves. In one of the caves, he found a Christian symbol, the Greek Chi-Ro, which identified it as a Jewish Christian burial, at tomb number 79. In tomb number 79 they found an ossuary bearing the name Simon son of Jonah, which is the name of Simon Peter. As well, in tomb number 70 they found an ossuary bearing the names Mary and Martha, who were both from Bethany, as mentioned in detail in the gospels. Their findings were published in 1958 in “Gli Scavi del “Dominus Flevit” parte I”, along with Father J. T. Milik, an expert in ancient languages and who was central to deciphering the Dead Sea Scrolls. This is direct physical evidence from the first century of the existence of Mary and Martha, as mentioned in Luke 10:38-42.

46

The Gate of the Triumphal Entry of Jesus

Golden Gate, Jerusalem, Israel. 31°46'44.13"N, 35°14'14.03"E

(https://unitedwithisrael.org/the-golden-gate-a-door-of-promise-for-the-future/) (accessed December 10, 2018)



The prophet Zechariah foretold that the King of the Jewish people would come to Jerusalem, a just person and having salvation, humble and riding on a young donkey. Then the prophet Ezekiel foretold that the Lord God of Israel would pass through the Eastern gate and that it should remain sealed. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy as He entered Jerusalem's Golden Gate that great day – and today the gate is completely sealed up. However, in 1969, Dr. James Fleming, who was then completing his Master of Archaeology degree, was leading a group of pilgrims near the Yeusefiya Islamic Cemetery, outside Jerusalem's Eastern Gate. As he approached the closed Golden Gate near the cemetery to take a picture of the arch, he fell through the floor of a tomb 8 feet (2.4 meters) down and landed on top of a pile of bones. It was a mass grave with 46 individuals buried there in the past 100 years or so. Fleming grabbed his camera and took a photograph of an ancient arch which was underground—the very arch of the Eastern Gate from the time of Jesus when He came through this gate into the temple in Jerusalem.

47

The Place of the Last Supper and Pentecost

Cenacle, Jerusalem, Israel. 31°46'44.13"N, 35°14'14.03"E

(https://godshotspot.wordpress.com/2014/03/11/disciples-in-upper-room/) (accessed December 10, 2018)

In Luke 22:7-13 we read how Jesus told his disciples to prepare for the Passover in a furnished upper room. This place on Mount Zion is probably the same location where the disciples were all meeting of one accord in Acts 2 when the Holy Spirit came and the Christian church was born. The prophet Isaiah foretold that the Lord God would lay a foundation stone in Zion. This was fulfilled with the birth of the church upon Jesus the true foundation stone. The prophet Zephaniah foretold that God would I restore to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one accord. This was also fulfilled in the upper room when the disciples spoke in tongues. Cyril of Jerusalem called this place the Upper Room of Pentecost on Mount Zion in 348 A.D. The upper room can be seen depicted of the Madaba map of 540 A.D., and it was known as the "Upper Church of the Apostles." The style of architecture in the room strongly indicates that this room was built by the Crusaders in the 12th century or soon afterward by the Franciscans. After the expulsion of the Crusaders it was used as a mosque, and in 1948, when Israel became a nation, it was taken over by the Israeli government. Below the upper room is the tomb of King David.

48

The Garden of Gethsemane

Jerusalem, Israel. 31°46'43.93"N, 35°14'23.31“

(https://itsabeautifulgospel.wordpress.com/2011/06/06/the-garden-of-gethsemane/) (accessed December 10, 2018)

The prophet Joel foretold that He would gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat and enter into judgement with them there on account of the Jewish people whom they had scattered among the nations. The Garden of Gethsemane is located in the Valley of Jehoshaphat. St. Jerome (c. 347-420 AD), a historian and priest in ancient times, mentions Gethsemane, which means “oil press”, the place where Jesus prayed with His disciples before His arrest as found in Luke 22:39-46. There was a 4th century church built at the site in the days of St. Jerome, but it was destroyed by the Persian army in 614 AD, then rebuilt only to be destroyed again in 746 AD by a powerful earthquake. The Church of All Nations is located here, built upon the ruins of the Byzantine and Crusader churches. It was built in 1922 by the Franciscans and 16 nations in total went in together to help build the church. Within this church is a large rock where it is believed Jesus prayed in agony and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. It is a sacred space where visitors must be extra quiet in reverence. In the garden are ancient olive trees which could have been the very same ones Jesus saw in his time of agony before the cross.

49

Where Jesus was held as prisoner – St. Peter in Gallicantu

Jerusalem, Israel. 31° 46′ 17″ N, 35° 13′ 55″ E

(https://www.seetheholyland.net/church-of-st-peter-in-gallicantu/) (accessed December 11, 2018)

Luke 22:60-62

c 33 AD

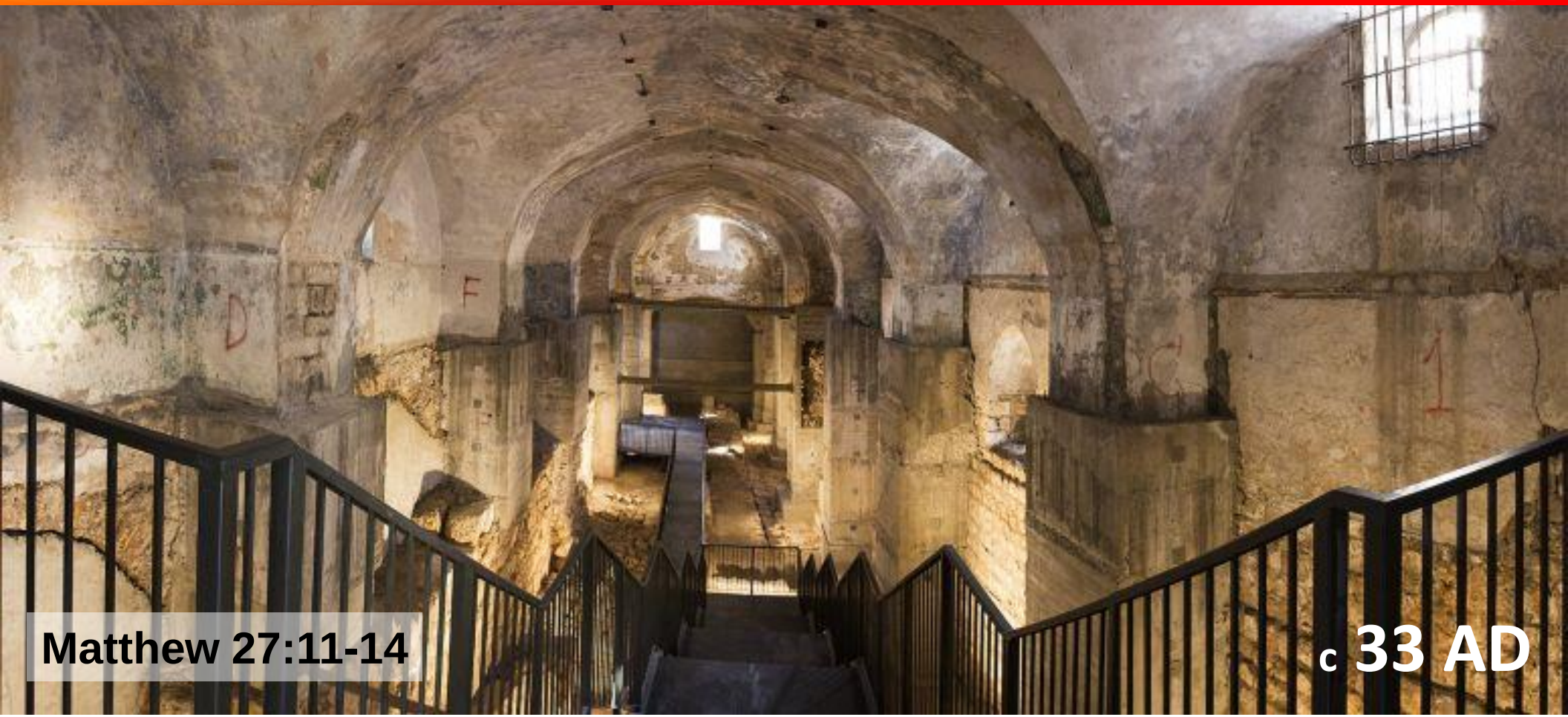
In the year 333 AD pilgrims recorded visiting the house of Caiaphas the high priest in Jerusalem. Then in 457 AD a church was built at the site of Peter's denial of Jesus. The present church was built in 1932 and is called the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu (Gallicantu means "Cock crow") and is on the Eastern slope of Mount Zion. After Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter followed right into the courtyard of the high priest Caiaphas. At this place Peter denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed twice. Today a golden rooster sits atop a black cross to remind pilgrims of Peter's denial and repentance. Then Jesus was unjustly tried and was condemned as deserving of death. He was then placed in a dungeon after his mock trial awaiting trial before the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate. This dungeon is called "Christ's prison" and Jesus would have had to be lowered by rope harness. Like Joseph, who was betrayed by his brothers and thrown in a pit, Jesus would have spent hours here before His suffering and crucifixion for the sins of the world.

50

Herod's Palace, Jerusalem where Jesus tried

Former Kishle Prison, Jerusalem, Israel. 31° 46′ 17″ N, 35° 13′ 55″ E

(https://www.tod.org.il/en/museum/the-kishle/) (accessed December 11, 2018)



This site, named the Kishle, right next to the citadel and Tower of David complex, is where Amit Re'em, an Israeli archaeologist, started excavations in 1999. When he dug through layers of history, he uncovered the foundation of a fortification wall built by Hezekiah, a defensive wall from the Hasmonean period, and Herod the Great's Jerusalem palace wall. This palace was a very large complex, and after Herod's death, the sons of Herod and Roman officials would administer much of Palestine from the building. While the prefect would normally be at the provincial capital Caesarea, he would travel to Jerusalem for Passover in order to maintain order among the masses of Jews who converged on the Temple from the entire region. It was here that Pontius Pilatus tried Jesus Christ. Here Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah which foretold that Jesus would be led as a lamb to the slaughter and silent as a quiet lamb before shearing. It was also here that Jesus Christ fulfilled the prophecy of Micah which said that men "will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek. " This occurred when the Roman soldiers mocked Jesus saying "Hail King of the Jews".

51

The traditional place of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Jerusalem, Israel. 31°46'42.54"N, 35°13'46.55"E

(https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/pictures-jesus-christs-tomb-restored-church-holy-sepulchre-jerusalem-1612903) (accessed December 27, 2018)

The holiest place in Catholic and Orthodox Christianity is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Built in 335 A.D. this church was filled with smaller places of worship that date back to the 4th century. The most sacred of places would be the site of the crucifixion, an altar, where worshippers can kneel and place their hand down into the rock where the cross is believed to have stood. As well, there is the Edicule, or little house, the empty tomb of Jesus. This was built by Constantine after he became emperor of Rome. The rock-hewn tomb was said to have been mostly removed, leaving the actual inner part of the tomb intact, and an Edicule was built around it. As well, there is the stone of anointing, where it is believed the body of Jesus was laid after the crucifixion. These sites are believed by Catholics and Orthodox believers to be the actual site of the crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus as portrayed in John 19:41.

52

Gordon's Calvary or Golgotha, near the place of the crucifixion of Jesus

East Jerusalem Bus Terminal, Jerusalem, Israel. 31°47'1.22"N, 35°13'52.20"E

(https://bramanswanderings.com/2015/03/02/the-place-of-a-skull/) (accessed December 11, 2018)

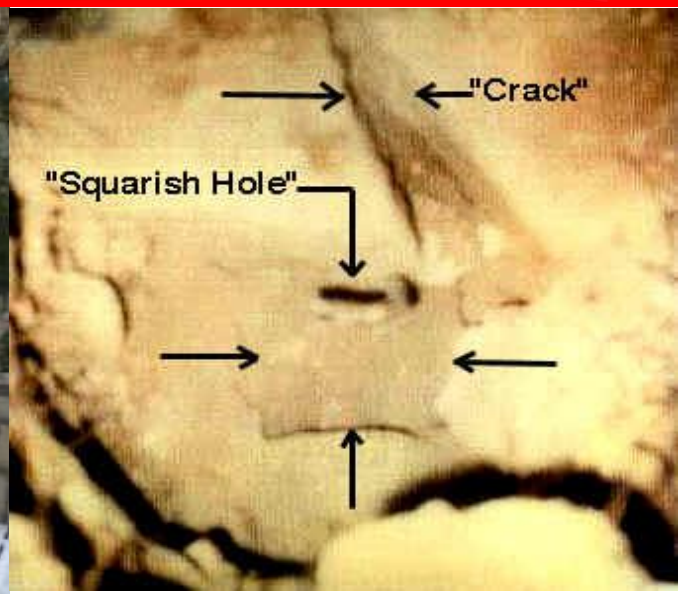
This alternate site for the crucifixion of Jesus was initially proposed by Otto Thenius, a German theologian, in 1842 and then by British Major-General Charles Gordon in 1883. They believed that the 4th century church of the Holy Sepulcher did not fit well the Biblical account. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher was on Mount Zion instead of on Mount Moriah, the holy mountain of God where sacrifices were made by Abraham (with Isaac) and Solomon (Temple Mount). As well, it was within the city, although some archaeologists maintain that the site was incorporated into the city of Jerusalem in 41 AD. This site, north of Jerusalem, is the highest point on Mount Moriah, and is located in an abandoned quarry, with the "skull" visible in the rock complete with eye sockets, and right along the road to Damascus as you leave Jerusalem through the Damascus gate. This was a place of stoning, but this practice was outlawed by the Romans and replaced with a more prolonged manner of execution. People would have passed by Jesus as he hung on the cross, as the scriptures said.

53

The Exact Place of Crucifixion near Gordon's Calvary according to Wyatt

North of Jerusalem, Israel. 31°47'0.87"N, 35°13'50.48"E

https://www.arkdiscovery.com/newsletter-1.htm) (accessed December 11, 2018)
(http://wyattmuseum.com/the-excavation-begins/2011-312) (accessed December 11, 2018)



Left: the place of the crucifixion in the Garden Tomb grounds, Jerusalem
Above: The hole that held the cross was plugged by a stone and this was removed when soldiers crucified their victims.

c 33 AD

As Jesus hung on the cross He quoted the Psalm of David, Psalm 22, where David cried out to God "Why have you forsaken me?" Later the psalm says: "For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;" Crucifixion involves piercing hands and feet, yet this practice did not exist in the days of King David. This was a prophecy that was fulfilled in Jesus crucifixion. Then the prophet Zechariah foretold that God would be pierced in Jerusalem. He says "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem. This was fulfilled with the crucifixion of the Only Begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ at this place. In 1981, American nurse anesthetist, Korean War veteran and experienced amateur archaeologist Ron Wyatt discovered what he believes is the exact place of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. As he excavated along the rock face wall about 262 feet (80 m) from the eye sockets of the skull formation on the northern part of Mount Moriah, he discovered three small cut depressions which he believed were the places where the Romans put the signs with the accusation against the condemned criminals. As well, he discovered an altar stone which he believed was placed there by early Christians who knew the place of the crucifixion well. Into the bedrock right at the site was carved a total of four square-shaped holes, which he believes held the crosses at this place of execution. There were three on the lower rock and one above in the middle, where Jesus would have been crucified—this hole had a crack in it from the earthquake that took place when Jesus died at 3 p.m. Plugging this central hole was a square-shaped rock plug which was used to cover the place when it was not being used. This is still in the possession of the late Ron Wyatt's wife, Mary Nell Wyatt. These details match the crucifixion descriptions in the gospels well.

54

Evidence of Crucifixion – pierced heelbone of crucifixion victim

Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel. 31°48'11.17"N, 35°13'51.89"E

(http://fightfinishkeep.org/resources/Biblical-Places-Gallery/gallery-Jerusalem/) (accessed December 11, 2018)

Mark 15:22-24

c 33 AD

In 1968, contractors from Israel's Ministry of Housing were working in Giv'at ha-Mivtar, a Jewish neighborhood in northeast Jerusalem, accidentally found a Jewish tomb from the 1st century. The tomb was excavated by Vassilios Tzaferis, a Greek born Israeli archaeologist. Inside the tomb was found a Jewish stone ossuary with the inscription "Jehohanan son of Hagkol". Inside the ossuary was a heel bone with an 11.5 cm. iron nail through it. The victim had been crucified by piercing the heel bone with a nail into wood. The victim was a man in his late 20s, and when the nail was driven into the olive wood, it hit a hard knot, which was so hard that it caused the iron nail to bend as it was driven in. A piece of olive wood was discovered still attached to the nail. On the head side of the nail was attached a piece of acacia wood. Likely because the nail was stuck into the knot and immoveable, the foot had to be amputated when the body was removed from the cross. At first examination, it was believed that the nail had gone through the victim's 2 feet, but examination later in 1985 showed that the nail only went through one heel bone. This is direct physical evidence of the practice of crucifixion in the first century among the Jews.

55

The Garden Tomb

Jerusalem, Israel. 31°48'11.17"N, 35°13'51.89"E

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Garden_Tomb#/media/File:The_Garden_Tomb_2008.jpg) (accessed December 11, 2018)

John 19:41-42

c 33 AD

The prophet Isaiah foretold the Messiah's suffering and death: He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked-- But with the rich at His death. Earlier, the prophet David, King of Israel, foretold the resurrection of the Holy One. He writes: For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. This is the place of the burial and resurrection of the Messiah – the tomb of the rich Joseph of Arimathea. In this place, the tomb According to John 19:41, there was a garden tomb near the place where Jesus was crucified. Discovered in 1867 by Conrad Schick, a German archaeologist, the Garden tomb seems to fit the descriptions given in the gospels about Jesus' empty tomb. Firstly, the gospel says that the tomb was located in a garden and that it was a rock-carved tomb, not a natural cave. Excavations revealed a Roman-era winepress and a Crusader-era cistern that can hold almost 1 million litres on the grounds. Perhaps this cistern was expanded from what was a 1st century cistern. This very elaborate tomb has the burial area to the right, as the gospels says, and also has a weeping chamber where the three women went into the tomb. The gospels tell us that two angels sat where Jesus' body had lain—one at the head and one at the foot. This indicates that the tomb was large enough to accommodate five people at one time—and this is true of this unique tomb, for only a rich person could afford such a grave. On the outside there is the track for the rolling stone, a basin for foot washing for early Christians, an anchor cross to the upper left of the doorway (which was the insignia used during the persecuted church era), and a curious fragment of metal in the rock face, which was analyzed and found to be a mixture of iron and lead. These two metals, when used together, would form a very strong seal to perhaps hold the Roman seal which was on the rolling stone. Finally, this place was part of a building, most likely a church at one time, as Byzantine-style archways are visible outside the tomb. All together this site fits the many descriptive points as mentioned in the gospel. Israeli archaeologist Dr. Gabriel Barkay believes that the tomb is not the tomb of Jesus, but is rather a tomb from the 7th century B.C. and that the groove is a Crusader-period water trough for animals. This tomb, however, is an elaborate grave, not a customary grave from the 1st century or earlier centuries, and it matches the Biblical account word for word. The gospels are also talking about an elaborate grave that is also not typical of the 1st century except for the rolling stone, which was used by some tombs during that time.

56

The Ossuary of Caiaphas, High Priest who Tried Jesus

Found in Peace Forest, Jerusalem, Israel. *31°45'31.00"N, 35°13'43.00"E*

Now in Israel Museum, Israel. *31°46'19.39"N, 35°12'14.73"E*

(https://holylandphotos.wordpress.com/2017/04/05/bone-box-of-caiaphas-the-high-priest/) (accessed December 7, 2018)

Matthew 26:3-4

c 36 AD

In 1968, contractors from Israel's Ministry of Housing were working in Giv'at ha-Mivtar, a Jewish neighborhood in northeast Jerusalem, accidentally found a Jewish tomb from the 1st century. The tomb was excavated by Vassilios Tzaferis, a Greek born Israeli archaeologist. Inside the tomb was found a Jewish stone ossuary with the inscription "Jehohanan son of Hagkol". Inside the ossuary was a heel bone with an 11.5 cm. iron nail through it. The victim had been crucified by piercing the heel bone with a nail into wood. The victim was a man in his late 20s, and when the nail was driven into the olive wood, it hit a hard knot, which was so hard that it caused the iron nail to bend as it was driven in. A piece of olive wood was discovered still attached to the nail. On the head side of the nail was attached a piece of acacia wood. Likely because the nail was stuck into the knot and immoveable, the foot had to be amputated when the body was removed from the cross. At first examination, it was believed that the nail had gone through the victim's 2 feet, but examination later in 1985 showed that the nail only went through one heel bone. This is direct physical evidence of the practice of crucifixion in the first century among the Jews.

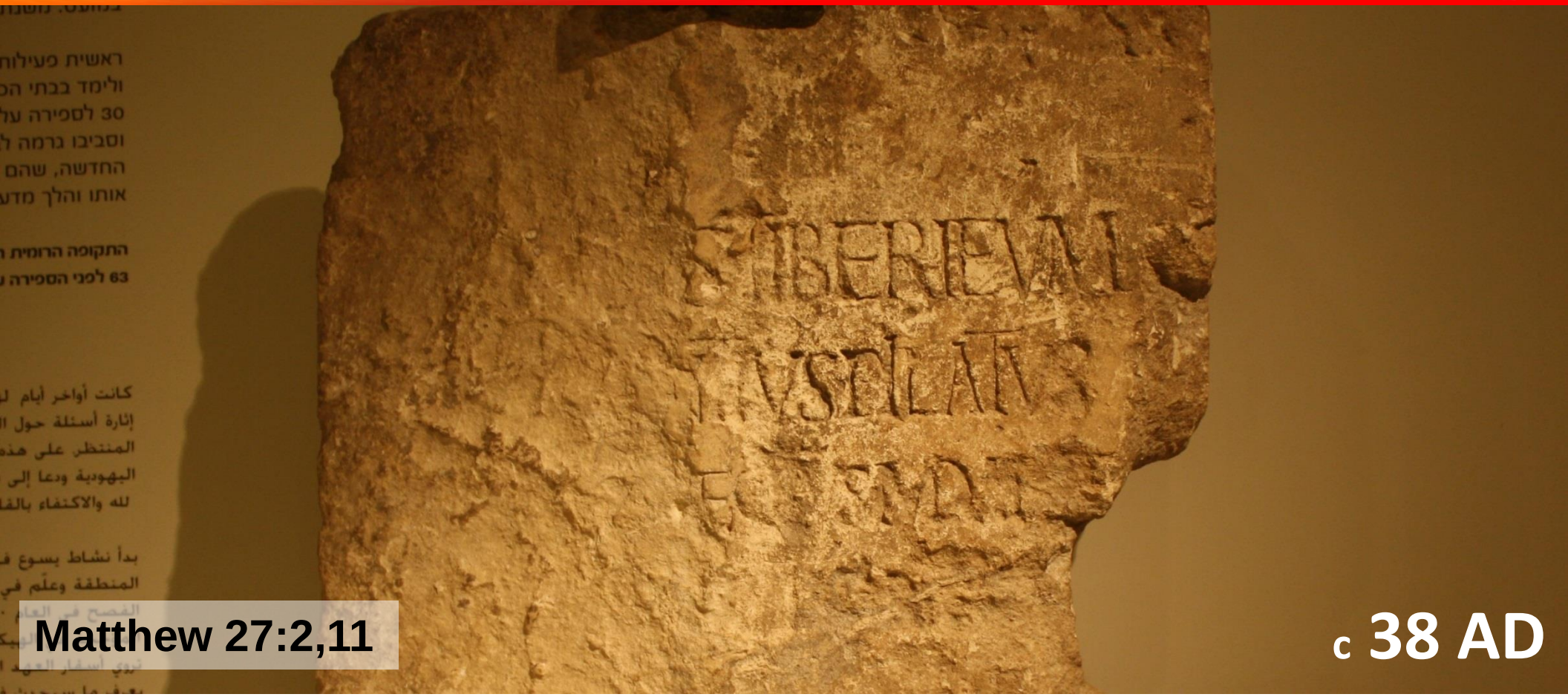
57

The Inscription of Pontius Pilate, Roman Governor of Judea

Found in Theatre in Caesarea, Israel *32°29'45.68"N, 34°53'27.49"E*

Now in Israel Museum, Israel. *31°46'19.39"N, 35°12'14.73"E*

(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pontius_Pilate_Inscription.JPG) (accessed November 23, 2018)



Matthew 27:2,11

c 38 AD

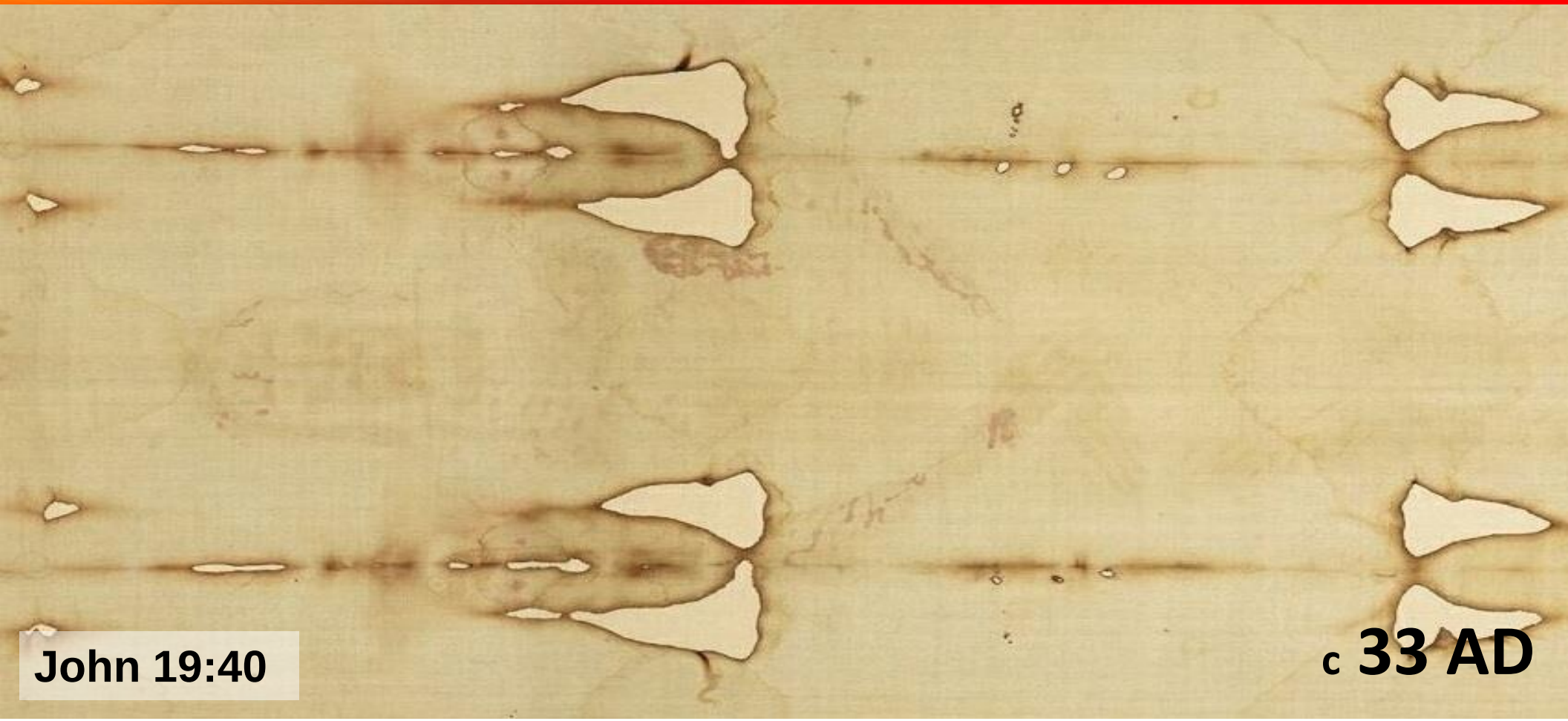
In 1968, contractors from Israel's Ministry of Housing were working in Giv'at ha-Mivtar, a Jewish neighborhood in northeast Jerusalem, accidentally found a Jewish tomb from the 1st century. The tomb was excavated by Vassilios Tzaferis, a Greek born Israeli archaeologist. Inside the tomb was found a Jewish stone ossuary with the inscription "Jehohanan son of Hagkol". Inside the ossuary was a heel bone with an 11.5 cm. iron nail through it. The victim had been crucified by piercing the heel bone with a nail into wood. The victim was a man in his late 20s, and when the nail was driven into the olive wood, it hit a hard knot, which was so hard that it caused the iron nail to bend as it was driven in. A piece of olive wood was discovered still attached to the nail. On the head side of the nail was attached a piece of acacia wood. Likely because the nail was stuck into the knot and immoveable, the foot had to be amputated when the body was removed from the cross. At first examination, it was believed that the nail had gone through the victim's 2 feet, but examination later in 1985 showed that the nail only went through one heel bone. This is direct physical evidence of the practice of crucifixion in the first century among the Jews.

58

The Shroud of Turin, the Burial Cloth of Jesus Christ

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Turin, Italy. *45°4'23.65"N, 7°41'8.13"E*

(https://pilgrimcenter.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/turinshroud-full.jpg) (accessed November 23, 2018)



John 19:40

c 33 AD

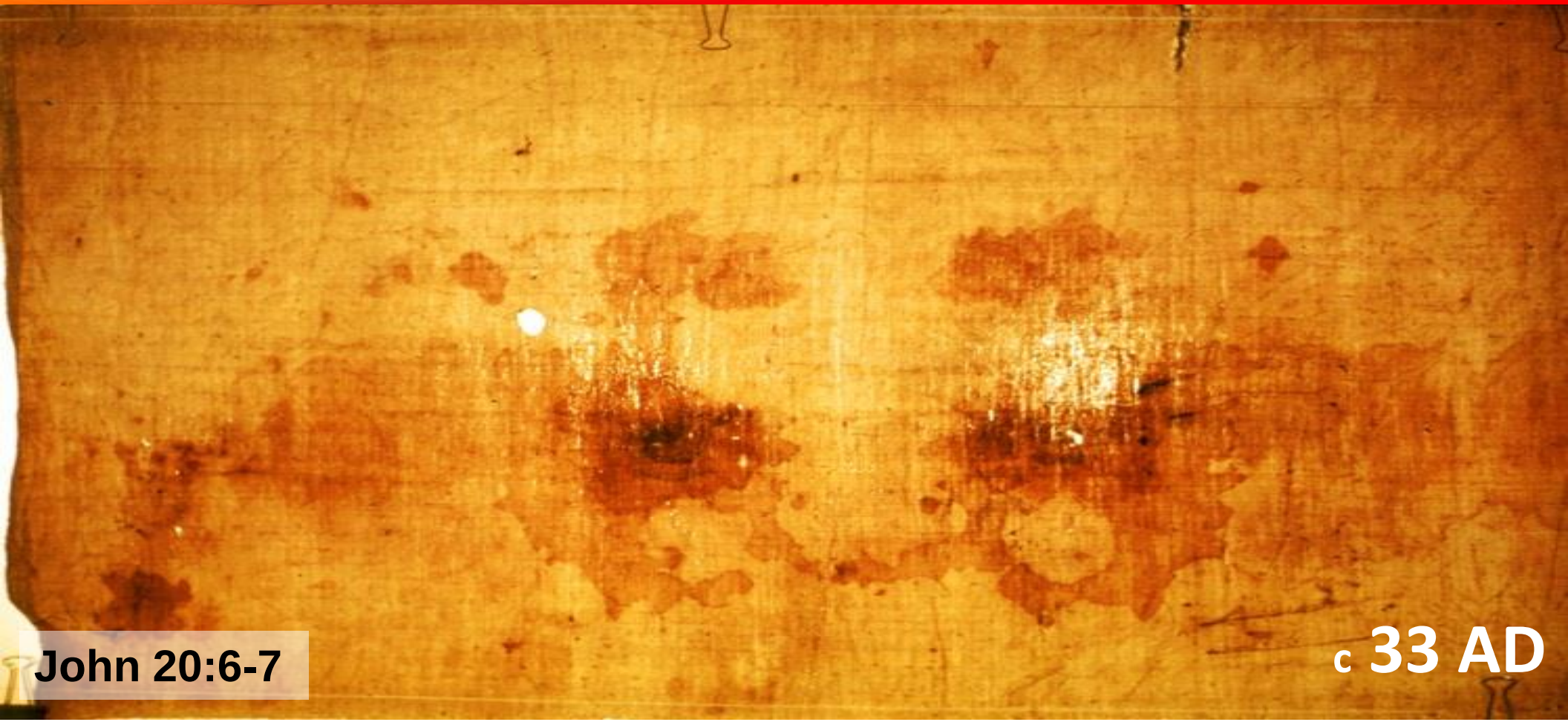
In 1968, contractors from Israel's Ministry of Housing were working in Giv'at ha-Mivtar, a Jewish neighborhood in northeast Jerusalem, accidentally found a Jewish tomb from the 1st century. The tomb was excavated by Vassilios Tzaferis, a Greek born Israeli archaeologist. Inside the tomb was found a Jewish stone ossuary with the inscription "Jehohanan son of Hagkol". Inside the ossuary was a heel bone with an 11.5 cm. iron nail through it. The victim had been crucified by piercing the heel bone with a nail into wood. The victim was a man in his late 20s, and when the nail was driven into the olive wood, it hit a hard knot, which was so hard that it caused the iron nail to bend as it was driven in. A piece of olive wood was discovered still attached to the nail. On the head side of the nail was attached a piece of acacia wood. Likely because the nail was stuck into the knot and immoveable, the foot had to be amputated when the body was removed from the cross. At first examination, it was believed that the nail had gone through the victim's 2 feet, but examination later in 1985 showed that the nail only went through one heel bone. This is direct physical evidence of the practice of crucifixion in the first century among the Jews.

59

The Sudarium of Oveido – The small cloth around Jesus' head

Cathedral of San Salvador, Oveido, Spain. *43°21'45.3"N, 5°50'35.09"W*

(https://www.historicmysteries.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/sudarium_oviedo_light.jpg) (accessed December 7, 2018)



John 20:6-7

c 33 AD

In John's writing, the Greek word used is "sudarion", a special cloth to wipe perspiration from the face. The Sudarium of Oveido is was reportedly used 20 centuries ago to cover the head of Jesus. This cloth measures 84 x 53 cm and is kept in the Cathedral of San Salvador, Oviedo, Spain. A careful investigation of the Biblical account of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus shows that there were the cloths that covered the body of Jesus and another "handkerchief, napkin or cloth" that was around Jesus' head. This would have collected sweat, blood (alive and after death) and pulmonary fluid after the death of Jesus. Death by crucifixion was actually a gruesome thing to behold. The victim would suffocate and the fluid built up in the lungs would ooze out of the nose. Isaiah foretold that the suffering Messiah's face would be "marred more than any man" (Isaiah 52:14). In response, a cloth had been lovingly placed around the head of Jesus post-mortem. This cloth was then placed next to the burial cloths in the tomb. The pilgrim Antoninus of Piacenza wrote in 570 AD that the cloth was kept in a cave near Jerusalem. Then in the year 614 AD the Sudarium was smuggled out of Jerusalem during the Persian conquests and brought to Spain where it has been ever since. In the year 840 AD King Alfonso II of Asturias built a chapel and an ark to hold the precious cloth. Interestingly there is a blood stain on the Sudarium which perfectly matches the blood stain on the Shroud of Turin and the blood types are both AB. The cloth is displayed to the public only 3 times a year, one being on Good Friday.

60 Ossuary of Alexander, son of Simon of Cyrene who carried Jesus' cross

Inv. #1965, Hebrew University Institute of Archaeology, Mt. Scopus, Jerusalem. *31°47'35.03"N, 35°14'34.68"E*

(https://israelpalestineguide.files.wordpress.com/2010/06/alexander-son-of-simon-ossuary-illustrated-2010-edit.pdf) (accessed November 23, 2018)

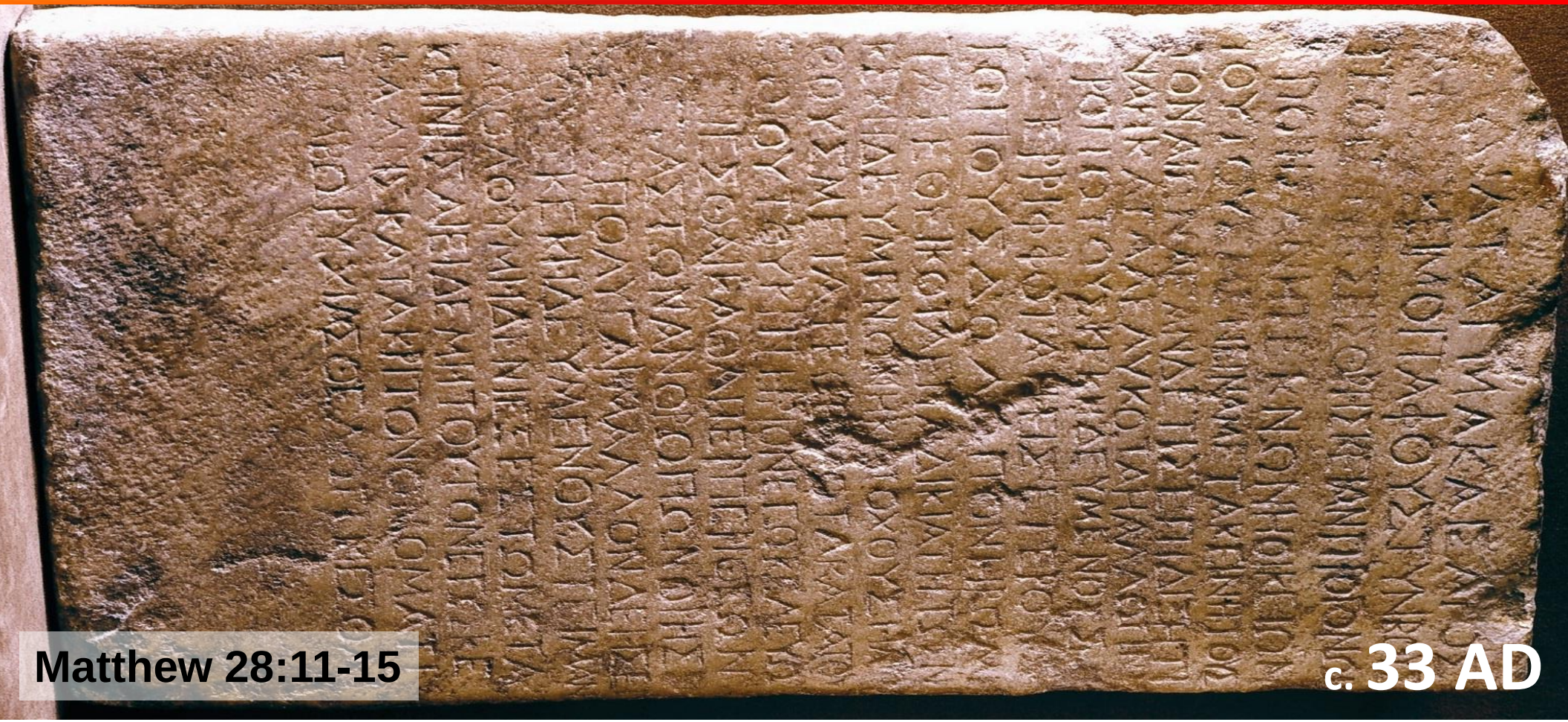
In 1941, Israeli archaeologists Eleazar Sukenik and Nahman Avigad found an ossuary along with 10 other ossuaries in a first century tomb in the Kidron valley, south of the village of Silwan. On the side of the ossuary it reads: "Alexander, son of Simon" (The inscription of SIMONALE above was a mistake and so underneath it was written: ALEXANDER SON OF SIMON beneath it. So 2 names and the relationships are put together which match the above passage. However, as well, on the lid of the same ossuary we have another inscription: "Alexander QRNYT." This word QRNYT is a misspelling of the word QRNYH which means Cyrenian. So we have the ossuary of Alexander, son of Simon, from Cyrene. This means that this is almost certainly the ossuary of the son of the man who carried the cross of Jesus. The "Alexander (son) of Simon" ossuary resides in the collection of Hebrew University's Institute of Archaeology located on Mt. Scopus in Jerusalem. Catalogued as Inventory No. 1965, this intriguing artifact has been loaned in the past for exhibition but is unfortunately not on regular public display.

61

The Nazareth Inscription

The Louvre, Paris, France. *48°51'37.06"N, 2°20'17.97"E*

(https://biblicalarchaeologygraves.blogspot.com/2014/12/bonus-107-nazareth-inscription.html (accessed November 23, 2018)



Matthew 28:11-15

c. 33 AD

This marble tablet was discovered in Nazareth and was acquired in 1878 by Wilhelm Frohner, a German archaeologist, then sent it to Paris. It is now on display at the Louvre, Paris. It is an edict written in Koine Greek from an unnamed Caesar that orders capital punishment for anyone who disturbs tombs and particularly those who move sepulcher sealing stones. This matches well with the post-resurrection account in the gospels. What is even more interesting is that it was reportedly found in Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus. Based on epigraphy it is dated to the 1st half of the first century. As well, we read in the gospels that at the time of Jesus' death many holy people were raised from the dead and appeared in the city of Jerusalem (Matthew 27:52-53). The reports must have come all the way to the Emperor Tiberius. In recourse, there was an official edict from Caesar that no other graves would be disturbed upon penalty of death. It is therefore, good evidence of the gospel account that the story commonly reported among the Jews after the resurrection was that Jesus' disciples stole the body of Jesus while the guards slept.

62

Akeldama – The Place where Judas Iscariot committed suicide

South of Silwan, Jerusalem, Israel. *31°46'5.80"N, 35°13'59.55"E*

(https://www.awesomestories.com/images/user/d8f3b9b78e.jpg) (accessed November 23, 2018)

The soil in this area is composed of rich clay and was used in the past by potters and thus was also called the Potter's field as in Matthew 27:10. The clay also has a strong red color, thus it was also called the Field of Blood. This is the place where Judas hanged himself, his body decomposed and fell to the ground spilling his intestines. It was called field of blood since the "blood money", which was used to pay Judas to betray Jesus, was used to buy the field, and it was at this place where Judas' blood spilled on the ground. In 1874 the Orthodox Church built the Monastery of St. Onuphrius, over the site of several tombs which date from the first century which can be seen inside. According to 16th century tradition, this was also the place where the Apostles fled to after Jesus' arrest in Gethsemane. Interestingly, this field is located in the cursed Hinnom Valley, where child sacrifice occurred. God promised that He would bring evil upon this place in Jeremiah 19:3.

63

The Place where Jesus met with His disciples after the Resurrection

Church of the Primacy of St. Peter, Tabgha, Israel. *32°52‘18.68”N, 35°33’1.44"E*

(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Church_peters_primacy.jpg) (accessed November 23, 2018)
(http://cannundrum.blogspot.com/2015/07/church-of-primacy-of-st-peter-tabgha.html) (accessed November 23, 2018)

John 21:1-19

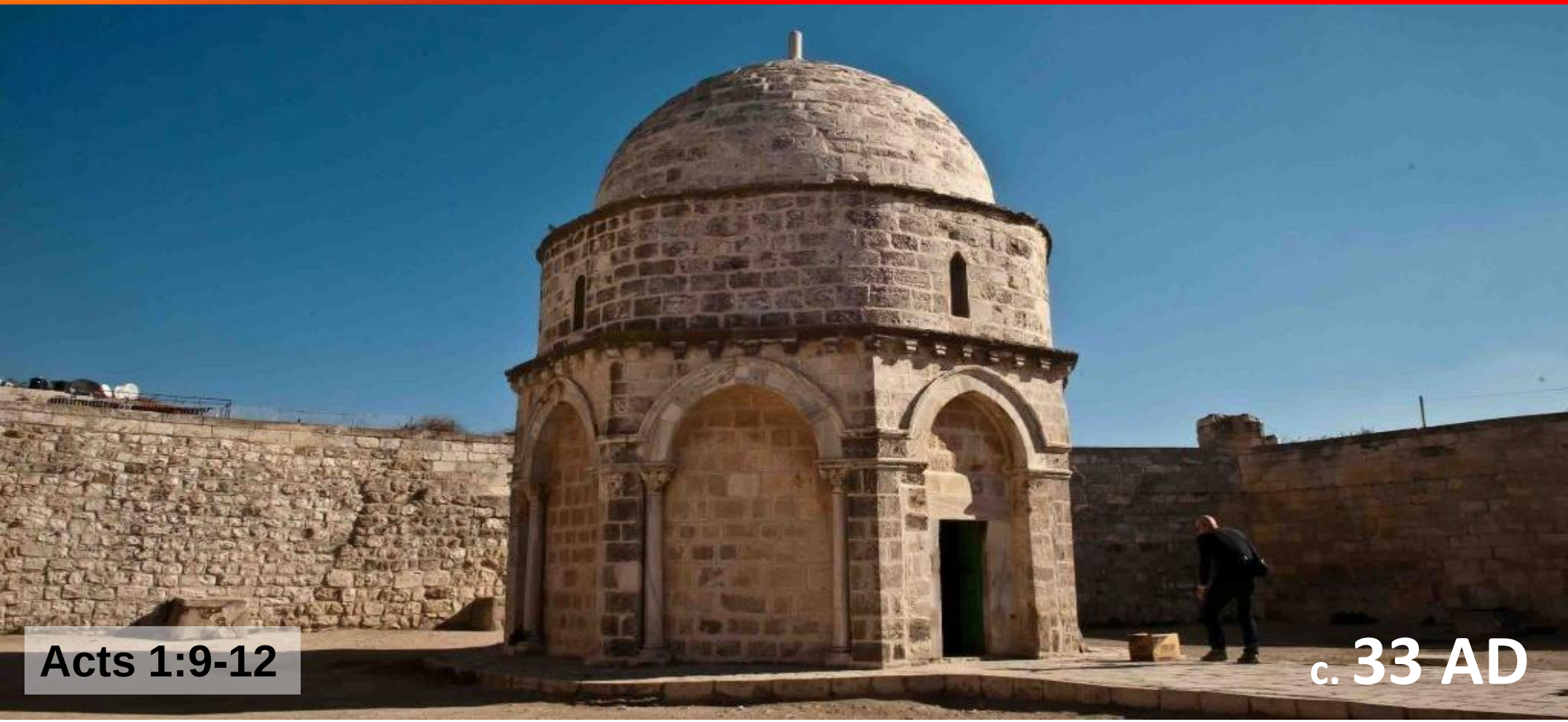
c. 33 AD

The church of the Primacy of St. Peter, built by the Franciscans in 1933 and made of black basalt, is on the site where early Christians believe Jesus said to Peter “Take care of my sheep” and reinstated him as the foremost of the apostles. This is located in Tabgha, Israel, and is built on 4th century church ruins. In the 9th century this place was called the “Place of the coals” to commemorate where Jesus had a fire of coals near this location. Jesus appeared to His disciples here in His resurrected body and thus the white limestone outcropping has a sign placed by the Franciscans: “This is a holy ground.”

64 The Place of the Ascension of Jesus Christ

Chapel of the Ascension, At Tur, Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, Israel. *31°46'44.04"N, 35°14'42.42"E*

(https://www.askideas.com/chapel-of-the-ascension-of-jesus-at-mount-of-olives-in-jerusalem/) (accessed November 23, 2018)



The prophet Zechariah foretold "I For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," The Lord came to be born as a Baby on earth. Then the prophet Hosea foretold that: "I will return again to my place." The Lord would ascend back to His place. Jesus Christ fulfilled both of these prophecies. For the first three centuries of the early persecuted church, the ascension of Jesus was celebrated in a cave part way up the mountain for safety reasons. However, by the late 4th century, Queen Helena had a circular memorial chapel built at the summit of the Mount of Olives over the site where Jesus ascended. In 384, the Spanish pilgrim Lady Egeria reported visiting the chapel of the ascension where Jesus ascended to heaven 40 days after His resurrection. Unfortunately, this chapel was destroyed in 614 AD by the Persians. Then it was rebuilt but then destroyed again during the conquest in the 10th century. Then the chapel was again rebuilt by the Crusaders in the 12th Century upon the ruins of the Byzantine chapel. This octagonal chapel originally had no roof and was surrounded by pillars. In 1187 Saladin converted this chapel into a mosque complete with a mihrab, showing the direction of Islamic prayer. Since then, although the land is under Islamic jurisdiction, Christians are permitted to come and worship here. In 1835 the walls were filled in and a domed roof added. Inside the chapel is a rock where tradition holds Jesus left His right footprint in the stone as He ascended into heaven bodily. Christians come and worship their risen and ascended Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ of Nazareth in this place.

65

The Place of the Stoning of St. Stephen, the First Martyr

Basilica of St. Stephen, Jerusalem, Israel. *31°47'4.78"N, 35°13'46.06"E*

(http://www.domjer.org/?tag=atrium) (accessed November 23, 2018)

Acts 7:54-60

c. 34 AD

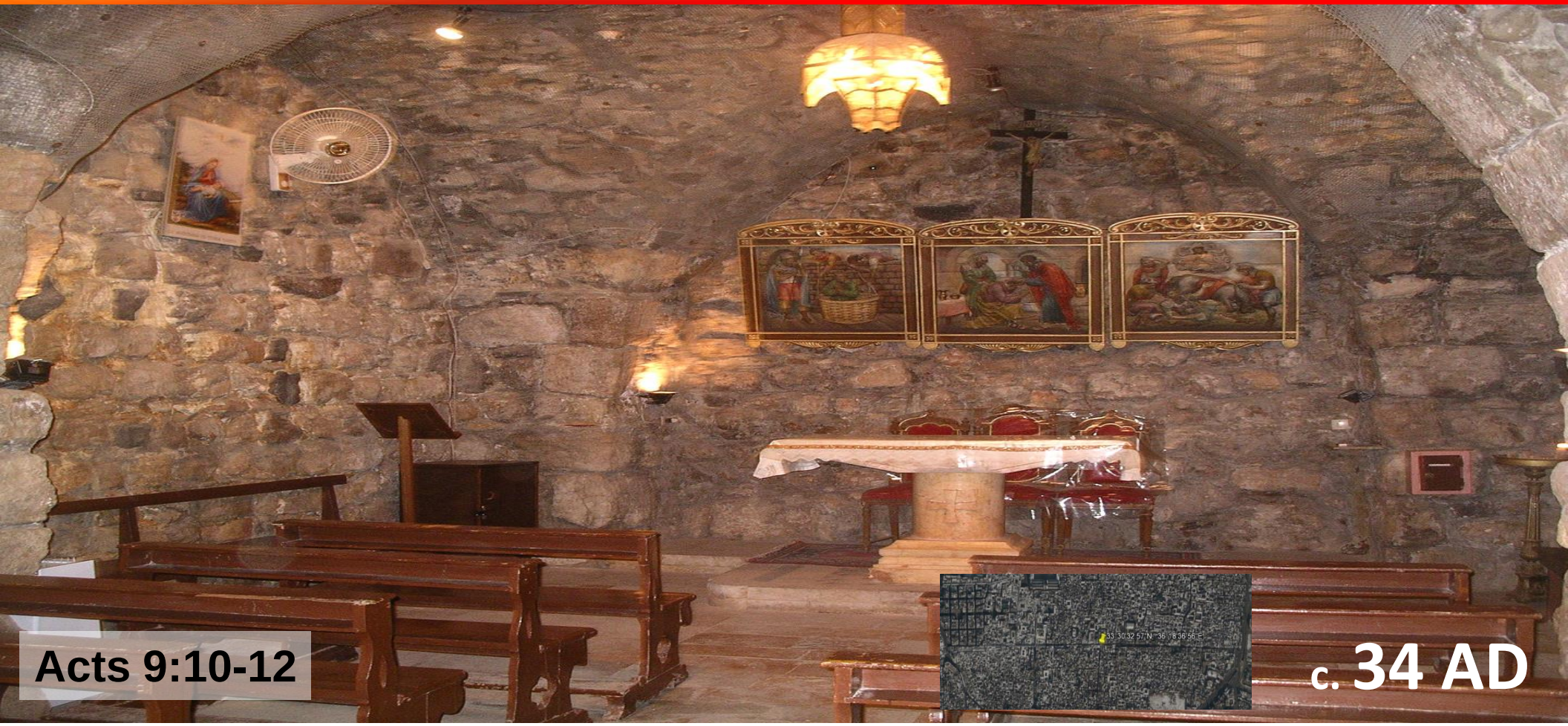
St. Stephen was a Hellenist Jew who had a Greek name which means "wreath" or "crowned". He was a deacon who was chosen to minister to the Greek-speaking Christian widows who were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. He was falsely accused of blasphemy against Moses and the law and that he said that Jesus of Nazareth would destroy the holy place, the temple, and change the customs that Moses handed down. French Archaeologists Louis-Hugues Vincent and Felix-Marie Abel placed the site of the stoning to be to the North of the city. At this site, the Empress Eudocia built a structure at the site, where she was later buried. The chapel was destroyed by the Persians in 614 AD. Then in 638 AD a small church was built by St. Sophronius, was enlarged by the crusaders, but then destroyed. In the 19th Century, French Dominicans built this church at the site which was completed in 1900. The Northern Gate, now called the Lion's Gate, was called St. Stephen's Gate many years ago, owing to the tradition that St. Stephen was martyred outside the gate. If the place is also Golgotha, where Jesus Christ was crucified, it would make sense that this place was a place of execution: crucifixion by the Romans and stoning by the Jews.

66

House of Ananias and Straight Street in Damascus

Damascus, Syrira. *33°30'41.32"N, 36°19'2.53"E*

(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ananias_house.jpg) (accessed November 23, 2018)



Acts 9:10-12

c. 34 AD

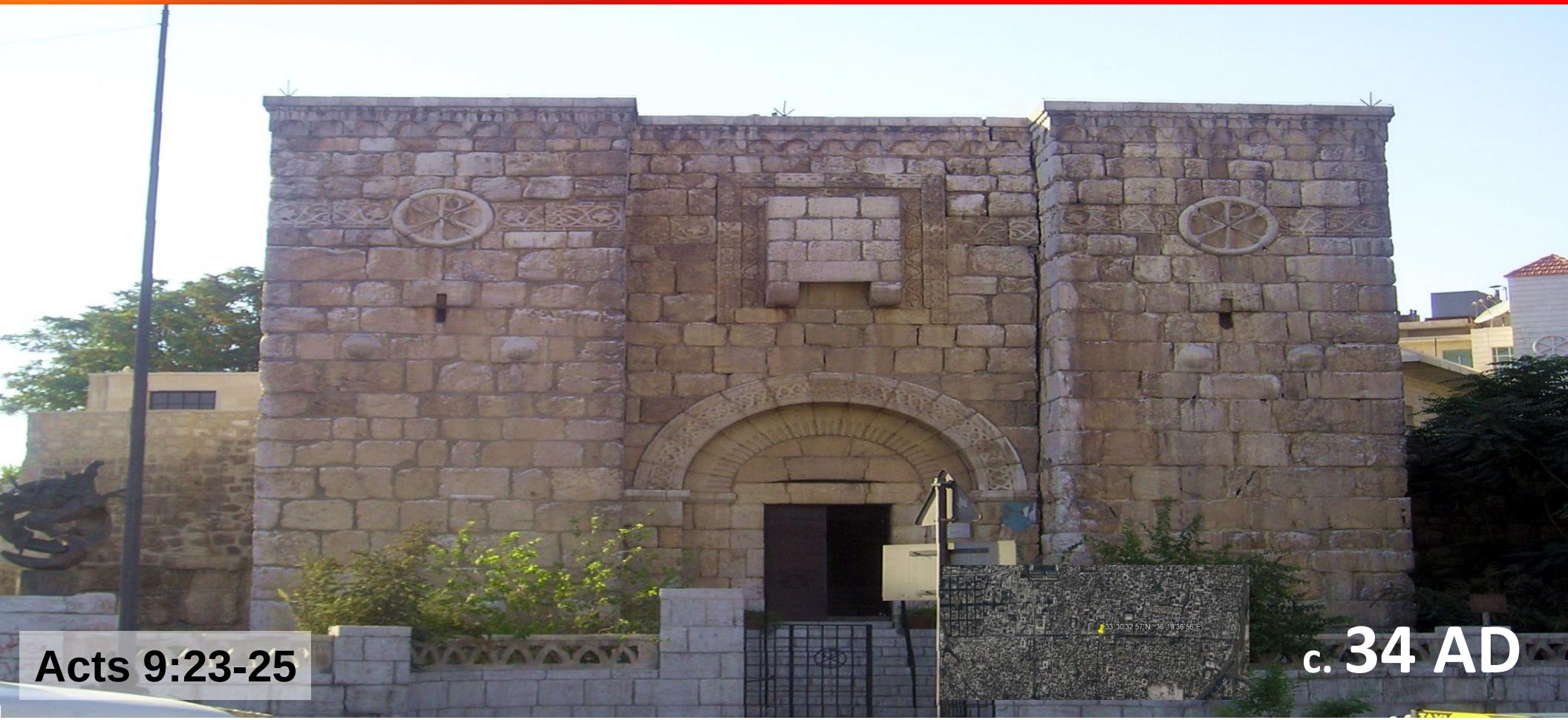
Straight Street is the main street that runs East-West across the city of Damascus, one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities. At the end of the street lies the Home of Ananias. In 1921, Eustache de Lorey, a French Archaeologist, excavated beneath the home of Ananias in Damascus. He found remains of a Byzantine church from the 5th or 6th centuries. He also found a piece of an altar dedicated to a pagan god from the 2nd or 3rd Centuries. In the early 2nd century, the Emperor Hadrian ordered that Pagan temples be placed over the main holy Christian sites to keep Christians away from this site and to erase their memory. This is evidence that this was the very place where Ananias was praying, heard God, then brought Saul back to his house to baptize him. Inside the house are 2 rooms with pictures that depict scenes from the life of St. Paul.

67

The Bab Kisan (Where St. Paul escaped by being let down in a basket)

Damascus, Syrira. *33°30'23.79"N, 36°18'55.92"E*

(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Damascus-Bab_Kisan.jpg) (accessed November 23, 2018)



Nearby is the Bab Kisan, one of the seven ancient city gates in Damascus, built in the Roman era and was dedicated to Saturn. It was near this gate in the city wall where it is believed the new converted Paul was let down by ropes and basket to escape capture.

68

St. Peter's Cave Church in Antioch

Antakya, Hatay Province, Turkey. *31°43'3.26"N, 35°47'39.25"E*

(https://holylandphotos.wordpress.com/2013/05/27/saint-peters-church-under-repairclosed-in-antioch/) *"Image(s) courtesy of www.HolyLandPhotos.org" – either in written or verbal form* (accessed November 23, 2018)

Acts 11:25-26

c. 47

The prophet Isaiah foretold: The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will name. The Name of the Lord Jesus was becoming known throughout the Roman world and beyond in fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. In Antioch they were called by a new name now, Christians. By tradition, this is the site where Paul went to teach and strengthen the disciples for a whole year. It is an ancient cave church, with a stone facade built by the Crusaders in 1100, and is carved out of Mount Starius. The oldest surviving parts of the cave church date from the 4th or 5th century but were probably in use in the first Century. There are floor mosaics and frescoes to the right side of the altar. Every year thousands of people go to see this place - one of the oldest churches in the world.

69

The Pillar of St. Paul in Ancient Paphos, Cyprus

Paphos Archaeological Park, Paphos, Cyprus. *31°43'3.26"N, 35°47'39.25"E*

(https://www.leonardo-hotels-cyprus.com/paphos/ancient-sites/st-pauls-pilar/) (accessed December 7, 2018)

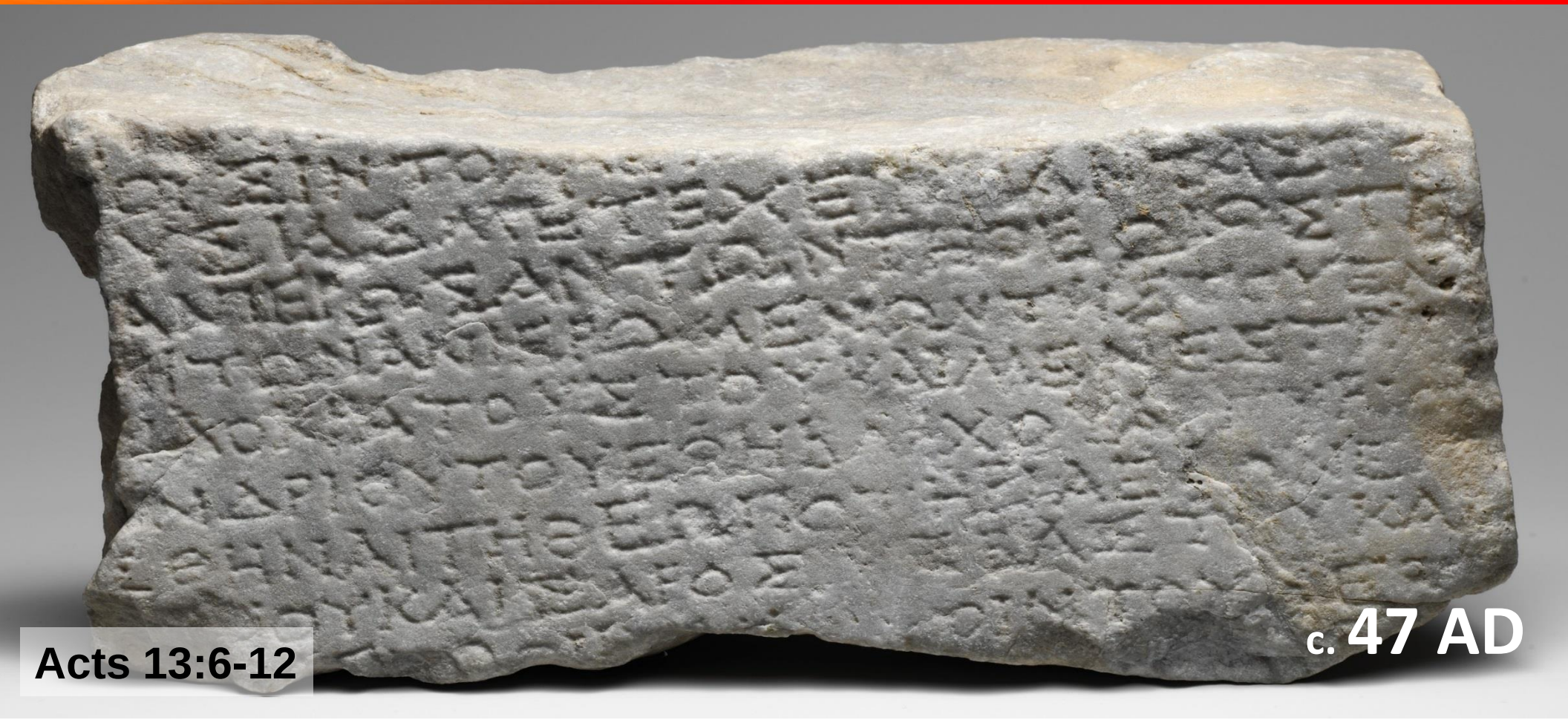
The Prophet Isaiah foretold the time when foreign countries would see God's glory. He wrote: Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. The Apostle Paul and Barnabas fulfilled this prophecy and came to the Island of Cyprus to the city of Paphos where they encountered the Roman proconsul Sergius Paulus and his attendant Elymas the sorcerer. According to tradition Sergius Paulus commanded Paul to be tied to the column and beaten for preaching the message of Jesus. This pillar still stands today. In the 4th century a church was built around the pillar called the Panagia Chrysopolitissa Basilica marking the place where St. Paul preached and Sergius Paulus was converted. This makes Cyprus the very first country to be governed by a Christian – the Light had truly come to Cyprus.

70

The Sergius Paulus Inscription

Found: Ruins of Soli, Cyprus. *35°8’28.66”N, 32°48’44.07"E*

(https://images.metmuseum.org/CRDImages/gr/original/DP132681.jpg) (accessed November 23, 2018)



Acts 13:6-12

c. 47 AD

On Paul’s first missionary journey with Barnabas, a native of Cyprus, they came to the ancient port city of Salamis then went to the town of Paphos. Paphos was the capital of Cyprus and from there the Proconsul Sergius Paulus governed Cyprus around 44 AD the time of Paul’s visit. The Proconsul was a provincial governor who was appointed to serve for a year by the Roman senate. Evidence for Sergius Paulus was found in 1877 by General Louis di Cesnola, who was an Italian-born Colonel during the US Civil War. As he excavated, he found an inscription in blue-gray marble found in the city of Soli, not far from Paphos, dated to 54 AD, with the name “Proconsul Paulus”. This inscription is now located at the Metropolitan Museum in New York of which Cesnola became the first director.

71

Synagogue Grounds in Pisidian Antioch where Paul preached

Ruins of Church of St. Paul, 1 Km NE of Yalvac, Ispala, Turkey. *38°18'23.53"N, 31°11'14.57"E*

(http://applebystravels.blogspot.com/2010/09/thursday-sept-9th.html) (accessed November 23, 2018)

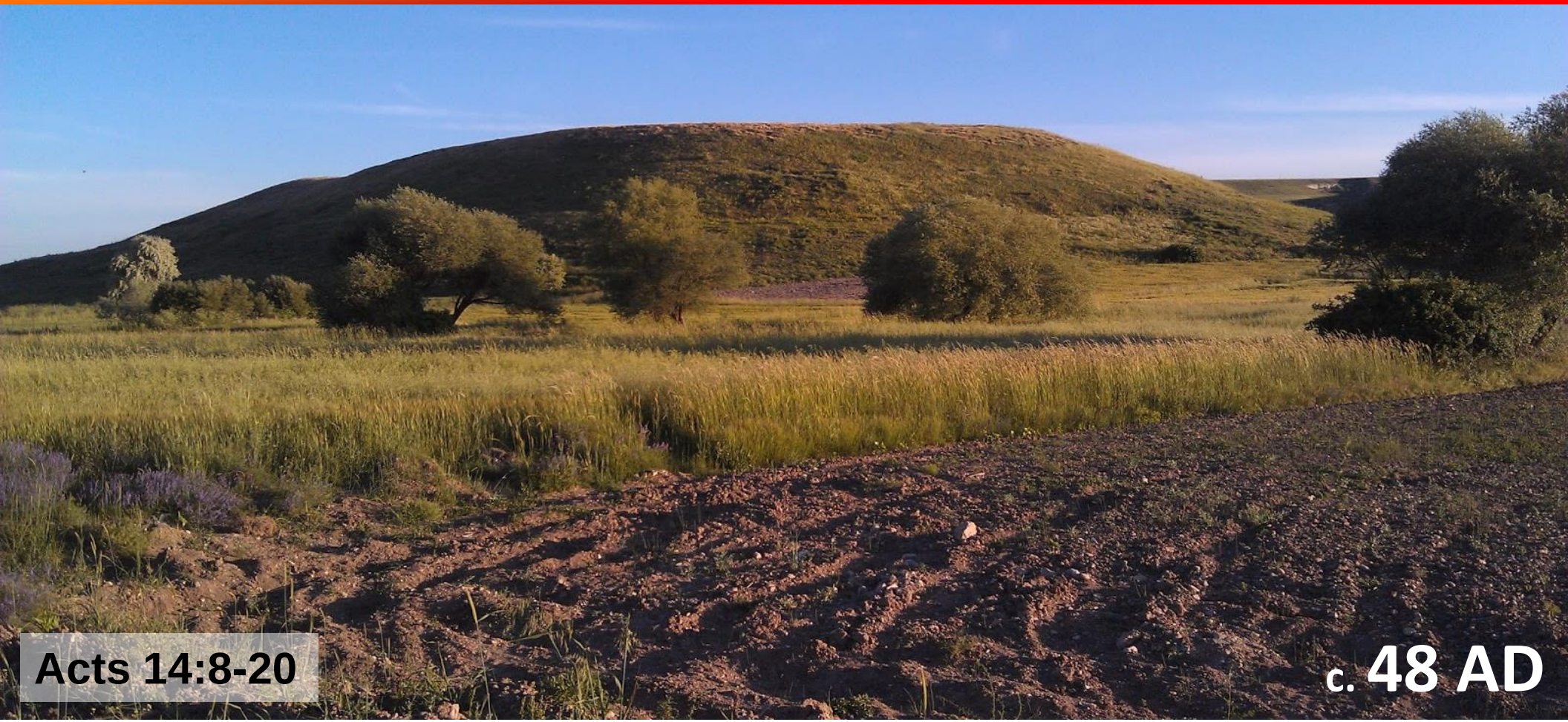
Paul and Barnabas both came to Pisidian Antioch on Paul's First Missionary journey where they came and preached in the synagogue in approximately 46 AD. In 1833, British antiquarian and Chaplain Francis Arundell surveyed Pisidian Antioch and was the first person to define and study the city. He discovered the church of St. Paul, located in the western part of the city near the ramparts and was built in 325 AD on the site of the 1st century synagogue where St. Paul first preached to the Gentiles in 46 AD. It is one of the largest churches ever discovered in Asia Minor complete with an apse, a nave, two side aisles separated from the nave by 13 columns on each side and a mosaic floor which is still visible today.

72

Ancient Lystra where Paul was Stoned

Gokyurt, Konya, Turkey. *37°39‘52.89”N, 32°12’38.39"E*

(http://kenschenck.blogspot.com/2013/06/turkey-day-6-pauls-first-missionary.html) (accessed November 23, 2018)



In 1907, Scottish Archaeologist Sir William Mitchell Ramsay discovered the ancient town of Lystra, the hometown of Saint Timothy. At the beginning of his career he was highly skeptical of the accounts in the book of Acts. “He therefore set out to put the writer of Acts on trial. He devoted his life to unearthing the ancient cities and documents of Asia Minor. After a lifetime of study, however, he concluded: 'Further study … showed that the book could bear the most minute scrutiny as an authority for the facts of the Aegean world, and that it was written with such judgment, skill, art and perception of truth as to be a model of historical statement'…, 'You may press the words of Luke in a degree beyond any other historian's and they stand the keenest scrutiny and the hardest treatment...' (The Bearing of Recent Discovery, p. 85, 89).

73

The Place of Lydia's Baptism near Philippi

On River Kygakti, Kavala, Greece. *41°1'14.39"N, 24°16'34.30"E*

(https://turkeygreece2015.wordpress.com/2015/09/24/lydias-baptism-by-paul/) (accessed November 23, 2018)

The prophet Malachi foretold "For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations," Says the LORD of hosts. The Name of the Lord Jesus was becoming known throughout the Roman world and beyond in fulfillment of Malachi's prophecy. In 49-50 AD Paul went on his second missionary journey with Silas and came to Macedonia. As there was no synagogue in Philippi, they went to a place of prayer out of the city by the Krenides River. As they were meeting, Paul and Silas met with Lydia, a seller of purple cloth, shared the gospel, she received Jesus Christ and was baptized. The location of Lydia's baptism is the Krenides River, outside the Philippi city limits. At this place is St. Lydia's Baptistry, a Greek Orthodox church, built in the early 1900s commemorates the spot on the river where the first European convert, a woman, was baptized.

74

The Prison at Philippi where Paul and Silas Held

Ancient Philippi (Filipos), Greece. *41°0’48.18”N, 24°17’1.40"E*

(https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2018/06/the-prison-of-apostles-paul-and-silas.html) (accessed November 23, 2018)

The prophet David, King of Israel, wrote: “Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name”. This was fulfilled when Paul and Silas sang praise to God in the Philippi prison that day. The ancient city of Philippi was excavated and researched from 1914 to 1938 by the French School of Archaeology at Athens. Among their discoveries was the Marketplace of Philippi. This is where Paul and Silas were brought before the magistrates of Philippi. Then they were put in prison nearby. Archaeologists are unsure but this place may have been the site during the first century where Paul and Silas were placed in an inner prison and where an earthquake set them free.

75

The Ancient city of Thessalonica

Thessaloniki, Greece. *40°38'14.03"N, 22°56'45.78"E*

(https://christianbibletours.org/travel-guide/destinations/thessaloniki) (accessed November 23, 2018)

Acts 17:1-4

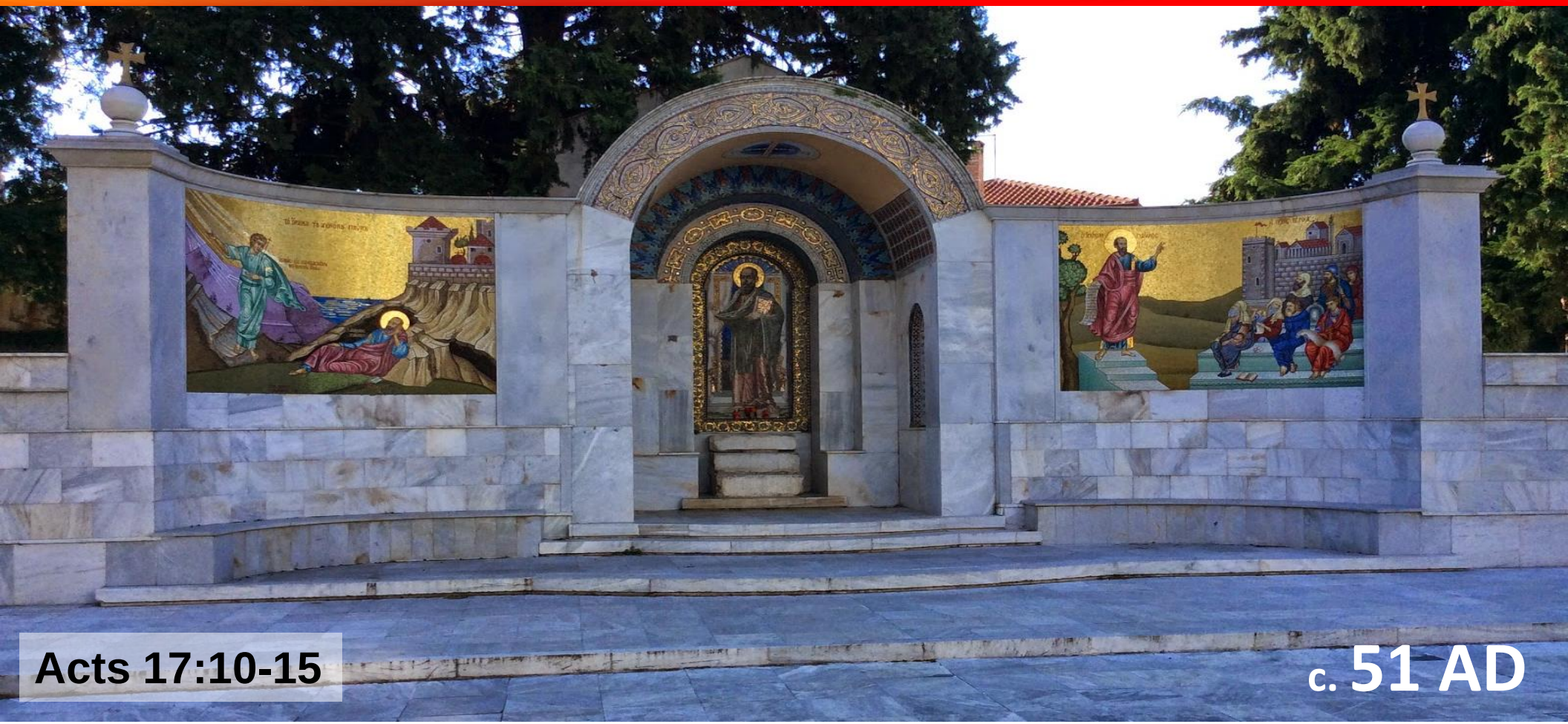
c. 50 AD

Today much of present-day Thessaloniki covers the ancient ruins of Thessalonica. However, recently Roman remains were unearthed (as seen below). Interestingly the "rulers of the city", or *politarches*, was a term inscribed on the city's gates. The Jewish community was quite vibrant for nearly 2 millennia. In Paul's day, he visited the Synagogue which has not yet been discovered. Tragically, nearly 60,000 of the Jews living in Thessaloniki were deported and nearly all died in Nazi-built concentration camps. Today the Jewish population is only 1200.

The City of Berea

Veria, Greece. *40°31‘6.90”N, 22°11’59.82"E*

(http://turkeygreecerometrip.blogspot.com/2014/10/sep-28-paul-at-berea.html) (accessed November 23, 2018)



Acts 17:10-15

c. 51 AD

According to tradition, the Apostle Paul came to Berea and preached to the Bereans at this place where the present monument stands.

77

The Areopagus (Mars Hill) in Athens

Athens, Greece. *37°58'20.31"N, 23°43'24.05"E*

(http://theresadoyle-nelson.blogspot.com/2017/10/10-things-to-know-about-st-dionysius.html) (accessed November 23, 2018)

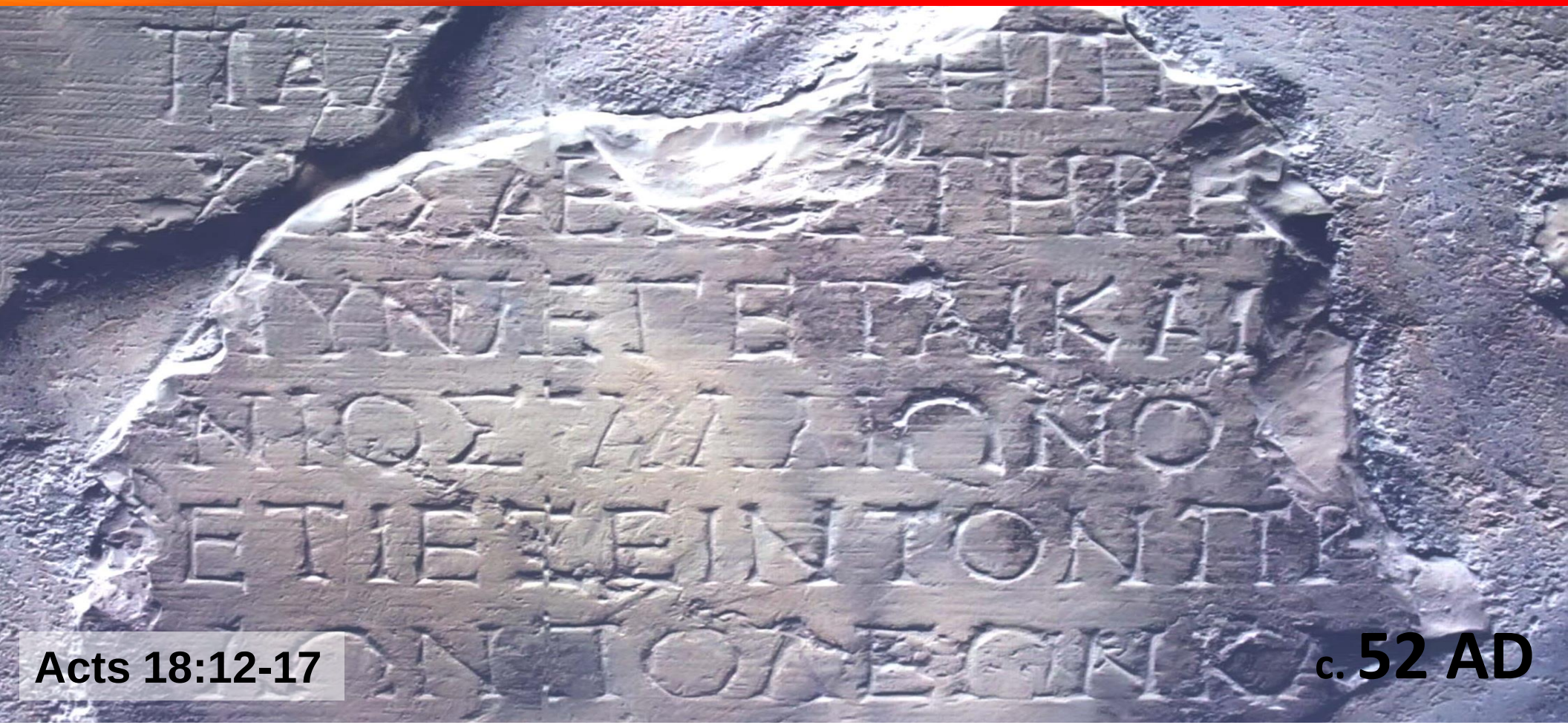
In ancient times, the Areopagus was a place in Athens where those accused of murder would stand trial. It was the place where the council or court of justice met in the open air on the hill. Later on the Romans renamed it Mars Hill after Mars, the Roman god of war. It was here that Paul preached his sermon to the Athenians and proclaimed to them about the "unknown god", that this God was the Creator of all things and preached the gospel to them.

78

The Gallio Inscription

Found in Temple of Apollo, Delphi, Greece. *38°28‘57.60”N, 22°30’7.63"E*

(https://literarylife.org/2017/07/01/sometimes-it-takes-a-whipping/) (accessed November 23, 2018)



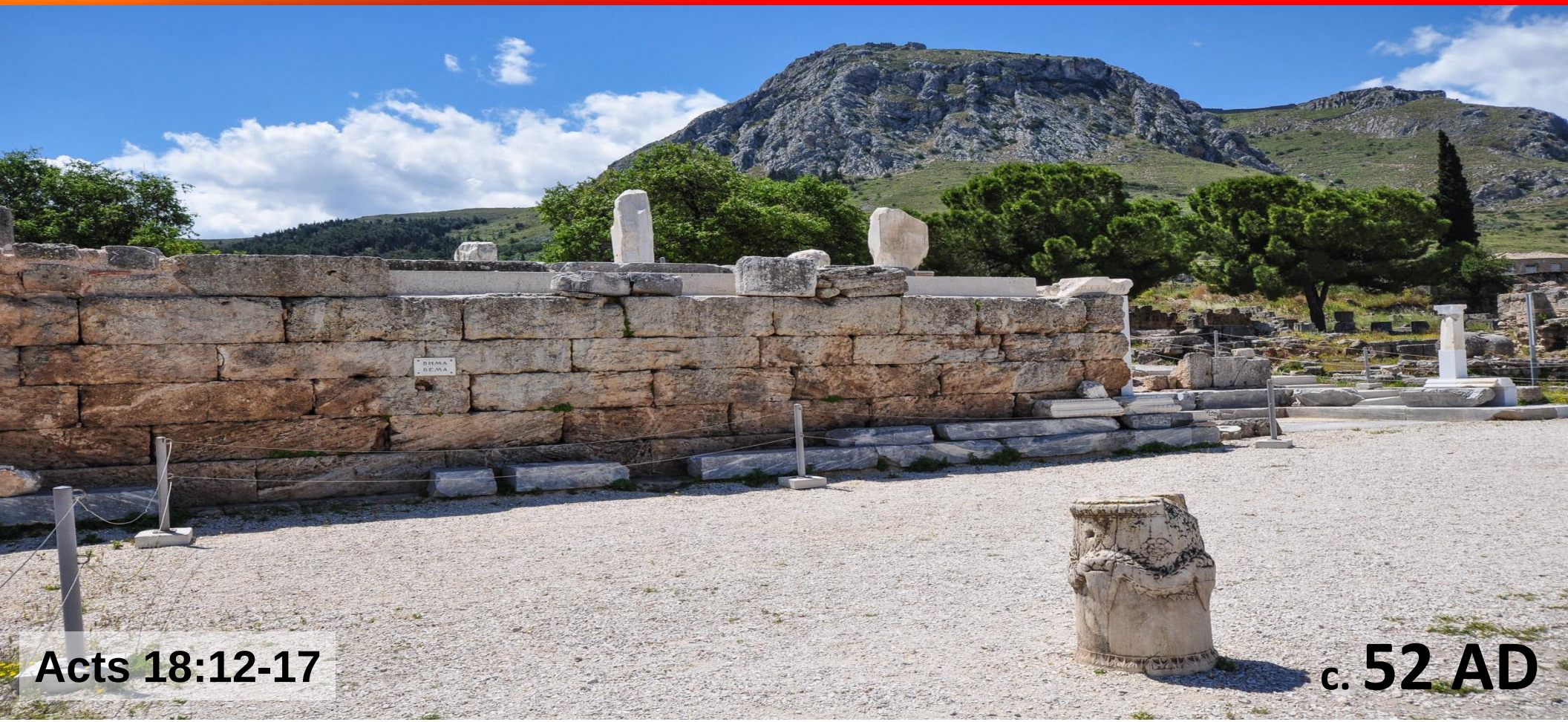
In 1903, a collection of 9 fragments of writing were discovered in Delphi, Greece, in the Temple of Apollo, by Émile Bourget, French Archaeologist and a team of French Archaeologists from the École Française d’Athènes . They were written by the Emperor Claudius and in the inscription, it says: “my friend Gallio, Proconsul.” This find fully confirms the Biblical account in Acts 18:12-17.

79

The Judgement Seat [BEMA] in Corinth

Archaea Korinthos, Greece. *37°54‘20.53”N, 22°52’45.84"E*

(https://holylandphotos.wordpress.com/2014/06/28/the-bema-at-corinth/) *“Image(s) courtesy of www.HolyLandPhotos.org” – either in written or verbal form.* (accessed November 23, 2018)



Acts 18:12-17

c. 52 AD

In 1929, American Archaeologist Dr. T. L. Shear conducted excavations and discovered the main judgment seat of Corinth right next to the Agora. The Apostle Paul stood right before the judgment seat but before he could give his defense, Gallio the Proconsul of Achaia refused to hear the matter and the case was dismissed. Then a synagogue inscription was found that gives evidence of a synagogue from the 5th century.

80

The Erastus Inscription in Corinth

Archaea Korinthos, Greece. *37°54'25.59"N, 22°52'38.93"E*

(https://holylandphotos.files.wordpress.com/2016/10/gsplco01.jpg) "Image(s) courtesy of www.HolyLandPhotos.org" – either in written or verbal form. (accessed November 23, 2018)

Romans 16:23

c. 52 AD

In 1929, American Archaeologist Dr. T.L. Shear directed excavations in ancient Corinth and discovered an inscription which clearly gives the name Erastus. It reads: ""Erastus in return for his aedileship, laid the pavement at his own expense". An aedile means that he was responsible for public buildings and festivals and for enforcing public order. This is evidence that Erastus was a city official in Corinth and Dr. Shear believed that it was almost certainly the Erastus mentioned by Paul in the book of Romans.

81

The Great Theatre of Ephesus and Silver Shrines of Diana

Selcuk, Izmir, Turkey. *37°56’27.76”N, 27°20’32.48"E*

(https://magical-steps.com/blog/the-great-theatre-in-ephesus-turkey/) (accessed November 23, 2018)
(https://tjbuggey.ancients.info/Trajprov.html) (accessed November 23, 2018)

Acts 19:23-41

c. 57 AD

Paul’s travel companions Gaius and Aristarchus were taken into the Great Theatre in Ephesus which could seat 25,000 people. It was the largest in the Province of Anatolia. The theatre was used for concerts and plays, religious and philosophical discussions and for gladiator and animal fights. The city of Ephesus had an estimated 250,000 people. Today only about 10% of the city has yet been excavated. As well, coins have been found which depict the silver shrines that were made by the silversmiths in the city of Ephesus during the time of the Apostle Paul. This theatre itself and the coins which depict the silver shrines of Diana give evidence of the events which took place in Acts 19:23-29.

82

Herod's Palace in Caesarea Maritima where Paul was imprisoned

Caesarea, Israel. *32°30'3.92"N, 34°53'32.32"E*

(http://beautifulcity2015.weebly.com/caesarea-maritima.html) (accessed November 23, 2018)

Acts 19:23-29

c. 57 - 59 AD

In 1976, Dr. Ehud Netzer, Prof. at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, directed systematic excavations of the Promontory Palace grounds, uncovering the ruins of a magnificent structure. In the center of the Palace was a large rock-cut pool which measured 35 X 18 m. The historian Josephus describes an exquisite palace complex for Herod, which was since destroyed. Excavations proceeded to 1994 and continued to reveal many structures of Herod's Palace. In 58 AD, the Apostle Paul, accused of having caused a riot, was sent to Caesarea to be tried by the governor. Being a Roman citizen, Paul demanded to be heard at the Emperor's court. He said: "I appeal to Caesar". He then sailed to Rome from Caesarea's harbor. There he was tried and a few years later executed. This hall, below may very well have been the place where the Apostle Paul appealed to Caesar and he may have been imprisoned for nearly 2 years in the Promontory Palace grounds.

83

The Possible Anchor of St. Paul's Grain Ship

Found: Salinas Bay, Malta. *35°57'35.50"N, 14°26'17.90"E*

Displayed: Malta Maritime Museum, Vittoriosa, Malta. 35°53'16.72"N, 14°31'14.79"E

(http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2012/09/13/Benedicts-Anchor-Was-It-From-the-Shipwreck-of-the-Apostle-Paul-on-Malta.aspx) (accessed November 23, 2018)

Acts 27:6-44

c. 60 AD

On April 25th, 2005, while diving off the Northern coast of Malta, Paul Gatt, a Maltese volunteer firefighter and florist, discovered a large metal anchor. This anchor was 2.3 m in length and weighed 700 Kg. It was found at a depth of 36 m of water in Salina Bay, Malta. The inscription on the anchor were the deities ISIS and SERAPIS. This indicates that this ship was constructed in Egypt, where ISIS was one of the chief deities and Serapis was a Greco-Egyptian god. In Acts 27, Luke tells us that the ship was Alexandrian, so this is evidence that this could have belonged to this extremely important ship carrying 276 passengers that ran aground in the same area of Malta. The anchor is now on display at the Malta Maritime Museum in Vittoriosa, Malta.

84 The Mamertine Prison in Rome where Peter and Paul awaited execution

Ancient Rome, Italy. *41°53'35.69"N, 12°29'4.19"E*

(https://www.ancient-origins.net/ancient-places-europe/infamous-mamertine-prison-and-supposed-incarceration-saint-peter-003447) (accessed December 13, 2018)

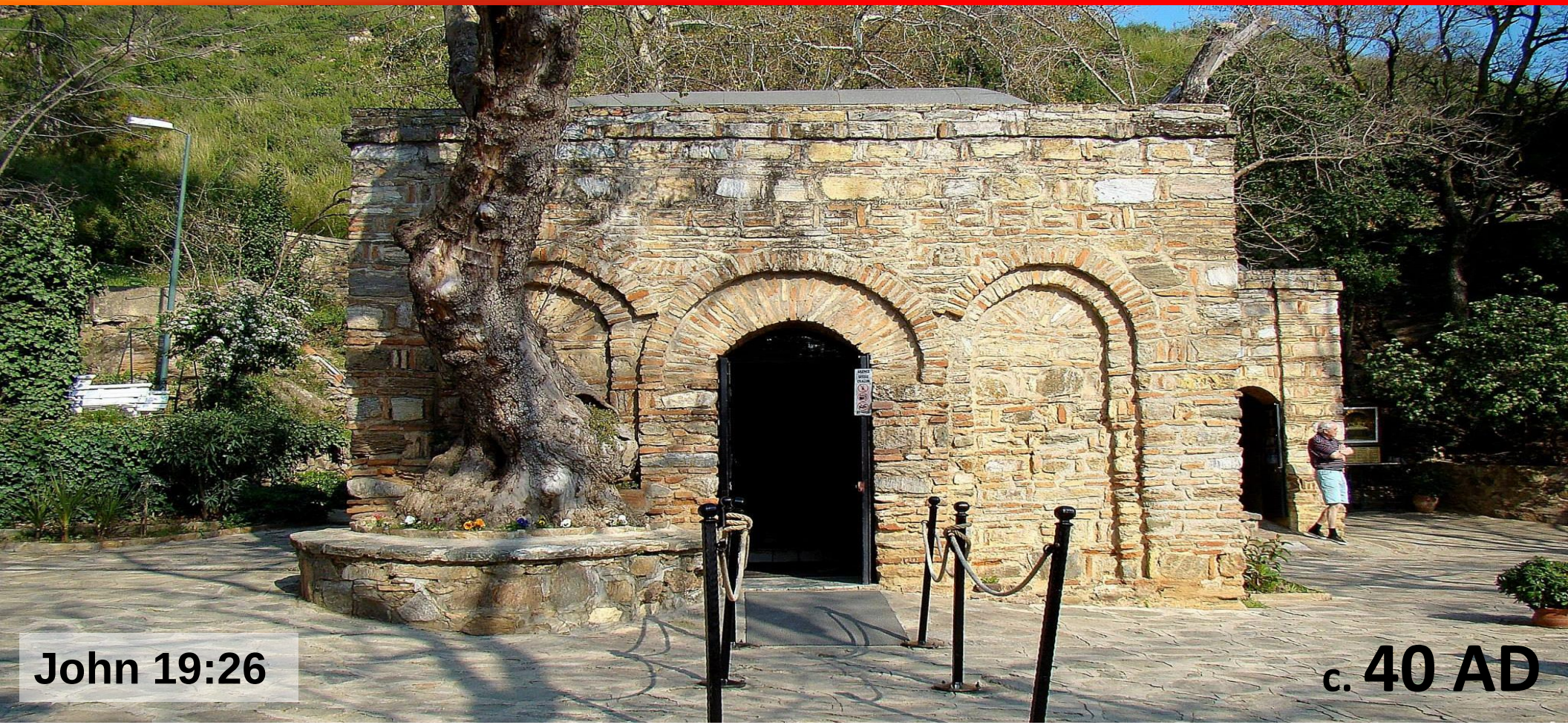
The Mamertine prison was a place where criminals accused of serious crimes would spend short stays prior to their execution. Many died within the cell which was initially a water cistern, converted to a jail cell perhaps in the 7th century BC, when it was the only prison, and used until the 4th century AD. The ancient historian Sallust said that it was 4 m. below the ground and "neglect, darkness and stench made it hideous and fearsome to behold." According to tradition both the Apostles Peter and Paul both spent time in the Mamertine prison in Rome prior to their execution. Church legend records that Peter was kept here and his fellow prisoners were converted to Christ. Then miraculously a spring began to flow on the cell floor and he then baptized the new converts inside the cell. Then he was crucified upside-down around 62 AD under the Emperor Nero believing that he was not worthy to die in the same way as Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul was taken to Rome following the shipwreck, stood trial before the emperor, but was under house arrest. He was later released then arrested again and brought to prison in Rome. It was probably here where he wrote the Second Epistle to Timothy knowing that the time of his death was imminent. Paul was beheaded later on order of Nero around 65-67 AD.

85

The Home of Mary in Ephesus

Orman Yolu Park, Turkey. 37°54'43.14"N, 27°19'57.65"E

(http://turkisharchaeonews.net/object/house-virgin-mary-ephesus) (accessed December 13, 2018)



Tradition holds that the Apostle John took care of Mary as he fled from Palestine following intense persecution under King Agrippa I. John fled to Ephesus with Mary, became a pastor, served there and took care of Mary in his own home. In 1881, Father Julien Gouyet, a French Roman Catholic priest discovered a small stone building dating to the Byzantine period and further excavations revealed a first century dwelling with a small bedroom on the side believed to be Mary's bedroom. It is located on a mountain near the ancient ruins of Ephesus overlooking the Aegean Sea. It was realized that this small stone building without a roof had been venerated by the early church and was frequented by people nearby who were descendants of the original faithful Ephesian Christians whose ancestors the Apostle John served as leader. Today pilgrims who come to this home can visit the chapel and write prayers and wishes and attach them to a wishing wall on the grounds of Mary's home. As well, a spring of water flows underneath the home and pilgrims come and drink its waters. It is believed that these waters have curative properties.

86

The Tomb of Mary in Jerusalem

Kidron Valley, Jerusalem, Israel. 31° 46′ 48″ N, 35° 14′ 23″ E

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomb_of_the_Virgin_Mary#/media/File:Tomb_of_the_Virgin_Mary._Altar.jpg) (accessed December 6, 2018)

According to tradition, Mary the mother of Jesus travelled to Ephesus along with the Apostle John, who was commissioned with caring for her by Jesus Himself. She lived in Ephesus for some time before returning to Jerusalem and dying in and around the year 41 AD. Her body was then taken to the Tomb of the Virgin Mary in Jerusalem. Catholic and Orthodox believers believe that she was resurrected on the 3rd day and later ascended to heaven; so her tomb was empty. This tomb is found at the foot of the Mount of Olives near the Garden of Gethsemane. In 1972, Dr. Bellarmino Bagatti, a Franciscan friar and archaeologist, excavated the site and found a 1st century cemetery. A small place of worship – an edicule – was built over the original site of the tomb of Mary. Then a larger octagonal church was built over this in the 5th century but was destroyed by the Persian invasion of 614 AD. The site was rebuilt and destroyed several times and in the year 1130 the tomb was rebuilt by the Crusaders but then later destroyed by Saladin. Finally in the year 1757, Greek Orthodox clergy expelled the Franciscans. Now the site has been continued to be cared for by the Armenian Orthodox and the Greek Orthodox church of Jerusalem.

87

The place of the death of the Apostle James son of Zebedee

Cathedral of St. James, Jerusalem, Israel. *31°46‘34.20”N, 35°13‘41.60"E*

(http://www.jerusalemshots.com/en-_41_72_6d_65_6e_69_61_6e_20_51_75_61_72_74_65_72.html) (accessed December 13, 2018)

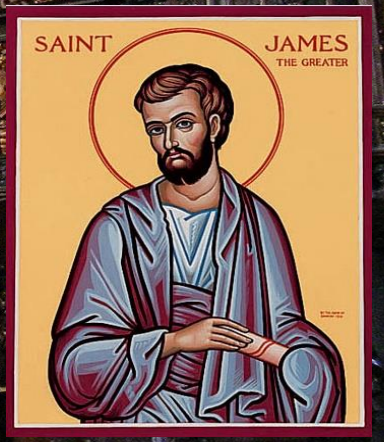
James, son of Zebedee, was a fisherman by trade working in Capernaum when Jesus called him to a lifetime of ministry. He and his brother John were nicknamed Boanerges or Sons of Thunder. He was a strong leader of the church, and by order of Herod Agrippa I, in 44 AD, James was beheaded in Jerusalem. The Roman officer who guarded James watched amazed as James defended his faith at his trial. Later, this officer walked beside James to the place of execution. Overcome by conviction, he declared his new Christian faith to the judge and knelt beside James to accept beheading as a Christian. This took place in the location that is now St. James Church in Jerusalem.

88

The place of the burial of the Apostle James son of Zebedee in Spain

Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, Spain. 42°52'50.17"N, 8°32'39.76"W

(https://www.thousandwonders.net/Santiago+de+Compostela+Cathedral) (accessed December 12, 2018)



Acts 12:2

c. 44 AD

James, son of Zebedee, was a fisherman by trade working in Capernaum when Jesus called him to a lifetime of ministry. He and his brother John were nicknamed Boanerges or Sons of Thunder. He was a strong leader of the church, and by order of Herod Agrippa I, in 44 AD, James was beheaded in Jerusalem. The Roman officer who guarded James watched amazed as James defended his faith at his trial. Later, this officer walked beside James to the place of execution. Overcome by conviction, he declared his new Christian faith to the judge and knelt beside James to accept beheading as a Christian. This took place in the location that is now St. James Church in Jerusalem.

89

The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Matthew

Ancient Napata, Jebel Barkal, Sudan. *18°32'10.12"N, 31°49'42.74"E*

(http://kemetexpert.com/jebel-barkal-the-sacred-mountain-of-kush//) (accessed December 12, 2018)

John 12:24

c. 60 AD

St. Matthew (or Levi) son of Alpheus was a tax collector by profession and sat and received taxes from his place of occupation in Capernaum. As a tax collector he was literate in both Aramaic and Greek. He invited Jesus to his home for a feast with other tax collectors and "sinners". According to Irenaeus and Clement of Alexandria, Matthew preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Jews living in Judea following the ascension of Jesus Christ before going to other countries. It was Matthew who was credited to writing the first gospel according to Papias of Hierapolis (100-140 AD). Ethiopian Church tradition states that Matthew along with Bartholomew came to Ethiopia for a mission that lasted 3 months. Tradition holds that King Hirticus had Matthew killed because he wished to marry a convent abbess named Iphigenia and the Apostle Matthew forbade it as she was dedicated to Christ. It was in Ethiopia or Kush that the Apostle Matthew was martyred for his faith by being killed with the halberd in the city of Nadabah (as recounted in Foxe's Book of Martyrs) in 60 AD. It would make sense that it was in Napata because this was the capital of the Kush Kingdom and it was here that the King of Kush reigned. In 1916, American Archaeologist and Harvard Professor of Egyptology George A. Reisner made excavations of the city of Napata, Capital of the Kush Kingdom, and uncovered the Royal Palace from which the King who killed Matthew reigned.

90

The burial place of the Apostle Matthew

Crypt of Salerno Cathedral, Salerno, Italy. *31°46‘34.20”N, 35°13‘41.60"E*

(https://holylandphotos.wordpress.com/2015/09/03/herod-the-greats-sarcophagus/) (accessed December 12, 2018)

St. Matthew was killed in Napata, the capital of the Kish Kingdom. Then his body was transported and is now buried in a crypt in the Salerno Cathedral in Italy. The Salerno Cathedral is richly decorated in gold and houses the tomb of the first gospel writer, St. Matthew.

91

The place of the death of the Apostle James son of Alphaeus

Ostrakine (El Flusiat), Egypt. *31°46‘34.20”N, 35°13‘41.60"E*

James the less is different from James the son of Zebedee, being the son of Alphaeus. There is not much known about the life of James the Less. According to some traditions James the Less was the first Bishop of Syria. He had made missionary travels through Judea, Edessa, Gaza and Eleutheropolis preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Tradition maintains that James the Less was captured under charges of having violated the laws of Moses. He was then crucified at Ostrakine in Lower Egypt where he was preaching the gospel in 62 AD. Afterwards his body was later sawn to pieces. His remains are located at the Santi Apostoli church in Rome, Italy.

92

The Place of the remains of the Apostle Philip and James the Less

Santi Apostoli Church, Rome, Italy. *37°55'52.76"N, 29° 7'48.45"E*

(https://karenfranza2014.com/tag/santi-apostoli//) (accessed December 12, 2018)

Matthew 10:1-4

c. 65 AD

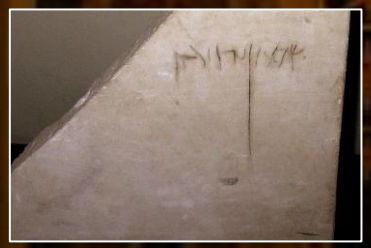
James the Less not to be confused with James the son of Zebedee, being the son of Alphaeus. There is not much known about the life of James the Less. According to some traditions James the Less was the first Bishop of Syria. He had made missionary travels through Judea, Edessa, Gaza and Eleutheropolis preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Tradition maintains that James the Less was captured under charges of having violated the laws of Moses. He was then crucified at Ostrakine in Lower Egypt where he was preaching the gospel in 62 AD. Afterwards his body was later sawn to pieces. His remains are located at the Santi Apostoli church in Rome, Italy.

93

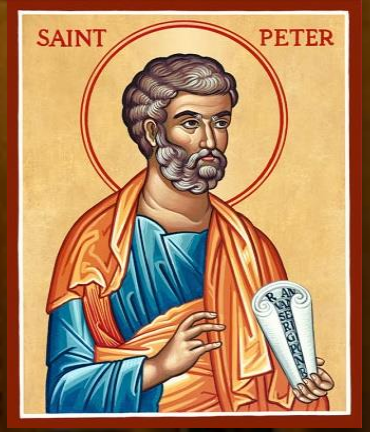
The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Simon Peter

Clementine Chapel, Vatican City. *41°54'7.92"N, 12°27'11.88"E*

(https://fragmentednotes.wordpress.com/tag/clementine-chapel/) (accessed November 29 2018)



John 12:24



c. 67 AD

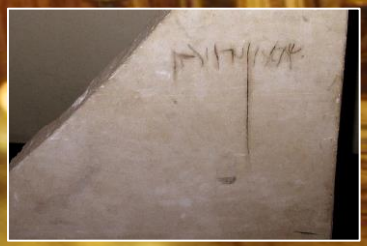
Simon was the son of Jonah and brother of Andrew. He was from the town of Bethsaida, a fishing village near the Sea of Galilee. He married and moved to Capernaum where he made his living from the fishing trade. He was a disciple who was there with Jesus with James and John at the Transfiguration and who called Jesus the Christ the Son of God. Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter. It was Peter who was the leader of the Apostles. Although he denied Jesus at first, he repented then preached the gospel to many Jews in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. It is also believed that Peter was the source of the Gospel of Mark. He travelled on a missionary journey to Lydda, Joppa and Caesarea then he was sent to Samaria by the disciples in Jerusalem. Then Peter was imprisoned in Jerusalem by Herod Agrippa I (AD 42-44) but escaped miraculously by an angel. Then he left Jerusalem in the mid-40s. Strangely the Apostle Paul when writing to the Romans in his epistle in 57 AD, although mentioning about 50 believers, he does not mention St. Peter, the presumed bishop of the church in Rome. According to tradition he became the Bishop of Rome then was martyred under the Emperor Nero in 62 AD.

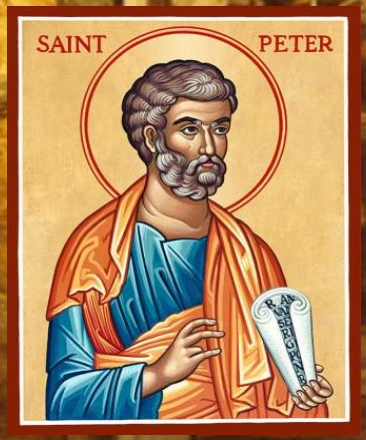
94

The burial place of the Apostle Simon Peter

Clementine Chapel, Vatican City. *41°54'7.92"N, 12°27'11.88"E*

(http://newcovenantjournal.blogspot.com/2011/09/tomb-of-st-peter-in-rome-vatican.html) (accessed November 29, 2018)





Matthew 10:1-4

c. 67 AD

This is the Clementine chapel in the Vatican, Rome, where St. Peter was buried after being crucified upside down. However, another possibility for the burial of St. Peter is that his corpse was taken from Rome and brought to Jerusalem, to the Mount of Olives (Dominus Flevit), and his bones collected in an ossuary. This ossuary was found by Father Dr. Bellarmino Bagatti and bears the inscription “Simon son of Jonah” and is in burial cave 79 where a “Chi-Ro” symbol was found, the symbol of 1st Century Christianity. However, Catholic tradition maintains that he was crucified upside down in what is now the Clementine Chapel and was buried in St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, Italy. An ossuary of Simon son of Jonah in Jerusalem would be very astonishing for Catholics who maintain that the body of Simon Peter has always been buried in Rome not in Jerusalem. However, the ossuary remains at the Terra Sancta Museum, Church of the Flagellation, Jerusalem. As well, in tomb number 70 they found an ossuary bearing the names Mary and Martha, who were both from Bethany, as mentioned in detail in the gospels. Their findings were published in 1958 in “Gli Scavi del “Dominus Flevit” parte uno”, along with Father J. T. Milik, an expert in ancient languages and who was central to deciphering the Dead Sea Scrolls. This is direct physical evidence from the first century of the existence of Simon son of Jonah, Mary and Martha.

95

The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Paul

San Paolo alle Tre Fontane, Rome, Italy. *41°50'5.69"N, 12°29'0.74"E*

(https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Tre_Fontane_Roma_fc19.jpg) (accessed November 29 2018)

2 Timothy 4:6-7

c. 67 AD

Saul of Tarsus was a man who was driven by zeal for the law of God. Trained as a Pharisee under Gamaliel, he saw the new Christian faith as something to eradicate and passionately sought to arrest all Christians. While on his way to arrest Christians in Damascus, he was met by Jesus Christ in a vision and was converted into a Christian, the very faith he once tried to destroy. The Lord Jesus called him to be an apostle, just like the twelve apostles, to found churches, to oversee and place leaders in the churches, and to go to places where the gospel was previously unknown. Of the 27 books of the New Testament, Saint Paul wrote 13 (and possibly 14) of them. After his conversion, he went to Cyprus, Asia Minor, then to Greece, Malta, then to Italy and Rome where he was under house arrest. He possibly then went to Spain to bring the gospel, then was arrested again and put in the Mamertine prison in Rome a second time and condemned to death by the Emperor Nero. It was from here that he wrote the 2nd letter to Timothy. From here Clement, Bishop of Rome, wrote in 95 AD that Paul was beheaded outside Rome at third milestone on the road to Ostia. Legend says that his severed head bounced 3 times and at each spot a spring flowed out. Even today 3 fountains flow within the church.

96

The place of the burial of the Apostle Paul

St. Paul outside the walls, Rome, Italy. *41° 51′ 31″ N, 12° 28′ 38″ E*

(http://www.bpnews.net/24615/vatican-officials-may-have-found-pauls-tomb) (accessed November 29 2018)

At the time of the execution of St. Paul, Clement, Bishop of Rome, wrote: “Weeping friends took his corpse and carried it for burial to the subterranean labyrinthes [the catacombs].” St. Paul’s body was buried in the tomb of a woman named Lucina. The Basilica of St. Paul outside the walls in Rome was initially built around the tomb of the apostle by Emperor Constantine in 324 AD. In 2006, as the tomb was excavated, the 2.4 m. stone coffin of St. Paul was discovered that dated back to 390 AD. The inscription on the tombstone reads in Latin: “*Paulo Apostolo Mart*.” Which means Apostle Paul, Martyr. In 2009, Carbon-14 tests on bone fragments contained within the coffin confirmed that they belonged to someone who lived from the 1st to 2nd centuries. This is indeed the bones of St. Paul the Apostle who brought the gospel to the Gentile world.

97

The place of the martyrdom and relics of St. Mark the Evangelist

St. Mark's Cathedral, Alexandria, Egypt. *31°11'54.43"N, 29°53'57.50"E*

(https://connectedincairo.com/2011/03/30/muslim-brotherhood-and-coptic-christians-reaching-out-to-one-another/) (accessed November 29 2018)

Acts 15:36-39

c. 68 AD

St. Mark was not part of the 12 disciples but was the author of the second gospel that bears his name. It is said that the gospel account was really Peter's eyewitness account that Mark wrote down for him. Mark, also known as John-Mark travelled with Paul and his cousin Barnabas on their first missionary journey to Cyprus and Asia Minor. Paul didn't want him on their later missionary trips but Barnabas insisted that he stay with the team. So Barnabas and John-Mark said goodbye to Paul and went together and Paul went with Silas. Coptic Christians believe that St. Mark came to Alexandria in the year 49 AD and stayed among the Egyptian people, leading the churches, and was the first Bishop of Alexandria until his martyrdom in 68 AD. He is honored as the founder of Christianity in Africa. Pagans in Alexandria were angry that Mark was turning the people away from the gods. They put a noose around his neck and dragged him through the streets of Alexandria until he was dead. His body was buried right on the grounds of St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral.

98

The place of the burial of St. Mark the Evangelist's relics

St. Mark's Basilica, Venice, Italy. *45° 26′ 4″ N, 12° 20′ 23″ E*

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Mark%27s_Basilica) (accessed November 29 2018)

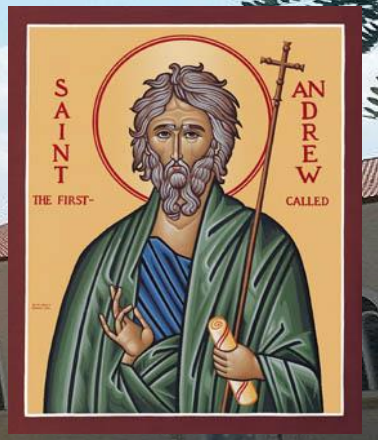
St. Mark was buried in Alexandria, Egypt, in the church of St. Mark. However, in the year 828 AD, 2 Venetian merchants helped by 2 Greek monks took the bones of St. Mark as the area was under the control of Islamic Abbasid Caliphate. They smuggled the bones of St. Mark out and hid them under a layer of pork meat and cabbage leaves. They brought the relics of St. Mark to Venice and then built the Basilica of St. Mark to house his relics. It is a fabulously richly decorated church as the merchants of Venice were renowned for their wealth and was nicknamed "The Church of Gold". Now both churches in Alexandria and Venice now have relics of St. Mark to remember the life of this amazing man of God who was the Bishop of Alexandria and wrote the Gospel of Mark.

99

The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Andrew

St Andrew's Cathedral, Patras, Greece. *38°14'32.30"N, 21°43'38.48"E*

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Andrew%27s_Cathedral,_Patras#/media/File:Agios_Andreas_Church_Patras_Dec_2016.jpg) (accessed November 29 2018)



John 12:24

c. 69 AD

The Apostle Andrew was the brother of St. Peter and the son of Jonah and was from the town of Bethsaida. In the Gospel of John, Andrew is recorded as being the first disciple to be called and who brought his brother to Jesus. According to Eusebius, after the ascension of Jesus, Andrew preached the gospel in Scythia (what is today Southern Russia). As well, the Chronicle of Nestor (10th Century) stated that he preached the gospel along the Black Sea and the Dnieper River as far as Kiev. He became patron Saint of Ukraine, Romania, Russia and Scotland. According to tradition, he founded the See of Byzantium (modern day Istanbul) in 38 AD. According to Hippolytus of Rome, Andrew preached in Thrace. As well, he went to Achaia and was finally crucified on an X-shaped cross in the city of Patras in Achaia in approximately 69 AD. Although In 1964 the Pope ordered that the relics of St. Andrew be transferred back to Greece.

100

The place of the burial of the Apostle Andrew

St Andrew's Cathedral, Patras, Greece. *38°14'32.62"N, 21°43'40.33"E*

(https://public.fotki.com/susi484/travels_outside_the/city_of_patras_and/inside_that_encasem.html) (accessed November 29 2018)

Matthew 10:1-4

c. 69 AD

According to tradition, the Apostle Andrew, brother of St. Peter, preached the gospel in the areas to the North of the Black Sea and in various parts of Greece. He went up the Dnieper River as far as Kiev, the capital of Ukraine. After years of fruitful ministry for the Lord Jesus, the Proconsul of Achaia, Aegeates, came to Andrew at Patras, Greece. Aegeates came to put an end to the Christian movement in his province. He confronted Andrew and told him to abandon the superstitions about Jesus which Rome had abolished and that he never teach those things again or else face crucifixion. To this Andrew replied: “I would not preach the honor and glory of the cross if I feared the death of the cross.” With these words St. Andrew sealed his fate – he was condemned by the proconsul. Upon seeing the cross St. Andrew said: “O cross!” he declared, “O cross most welcome and long anticipated! I come to you with a willing mind, with joy and desire. Since I am a follower and a student of the One who died on you, I have always loved you and sought to embrace you.” Then Roman soldiers beat Andrew, then tied him to a X-shaped cross where he survived for 4 whole days preaching with a smile to a crowd of almost 20,000. Then he died and his body was taken by Stratocles and Maximilla, a leading woman in Achaia, who prepared Andrew’s body with spices and placed it in her own tomb. Today the relics of St. Andrew, including his skull, are in the Church of St. Andrew, Patras, Greece, along with the pieces of the cross on which he was crucified. This is a very important site for the Greek Orthodox believers whose faith is fruit of the life of St. Andrew.

101

The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Thomas

St. Thomas Mount, Chennai,India. *13° 0'18.20"N, 80°11'35.90"E*

(https://mapio.net/pic/p-12403517) (accessed November 29 2018)

The Apostle Thomas, also called Didymus, was famous among the apostles because he would not believe in the resurrection of Jesus without touching Jesus' side and hands. After seeing Jesus, he gave a declaration of the deity of Jesus by saying "My Lord and My God!". After travelling for years possibly bringing the gospel to the Parthians, according to Origen, he came to India in 52 AD and landed at the port of Muziris (modern-day North Paravur, Kerala, India) where there was a synagogue of the Jews. Thomas spent 10 years in Kerala state, establishing 7 churches, then went to Mylapore in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. According to the Acts of St. Thomas, the Kingdom of Mazdai, in the Southern India, was ruled by King Misdeus. The King was infuriated when St. Thomas converted his wife, Queen Tertia, son Juzanes, sister-in-law and her friend Markia. Misdeus led St. Thomas outside the city and ordered four soldiers to take him to the nearby hill, where the soldiers speared St. Thomas and killed him in 72 AD. Altogether his mission to India lasted 20 years and many people were brought to Christ.

102

The Tomb of the Apostle Thomas

Mylapore, Chennai, India. *13° 2'0.92"N, 80°16'40.03"E*

(http://www.turnbacktogod.com/santhome-basilica-cathedral-chennai-india/the-tomb-of-stthomas/) (accessed November 29 2018)

John 20:24-29

c. 72 AD

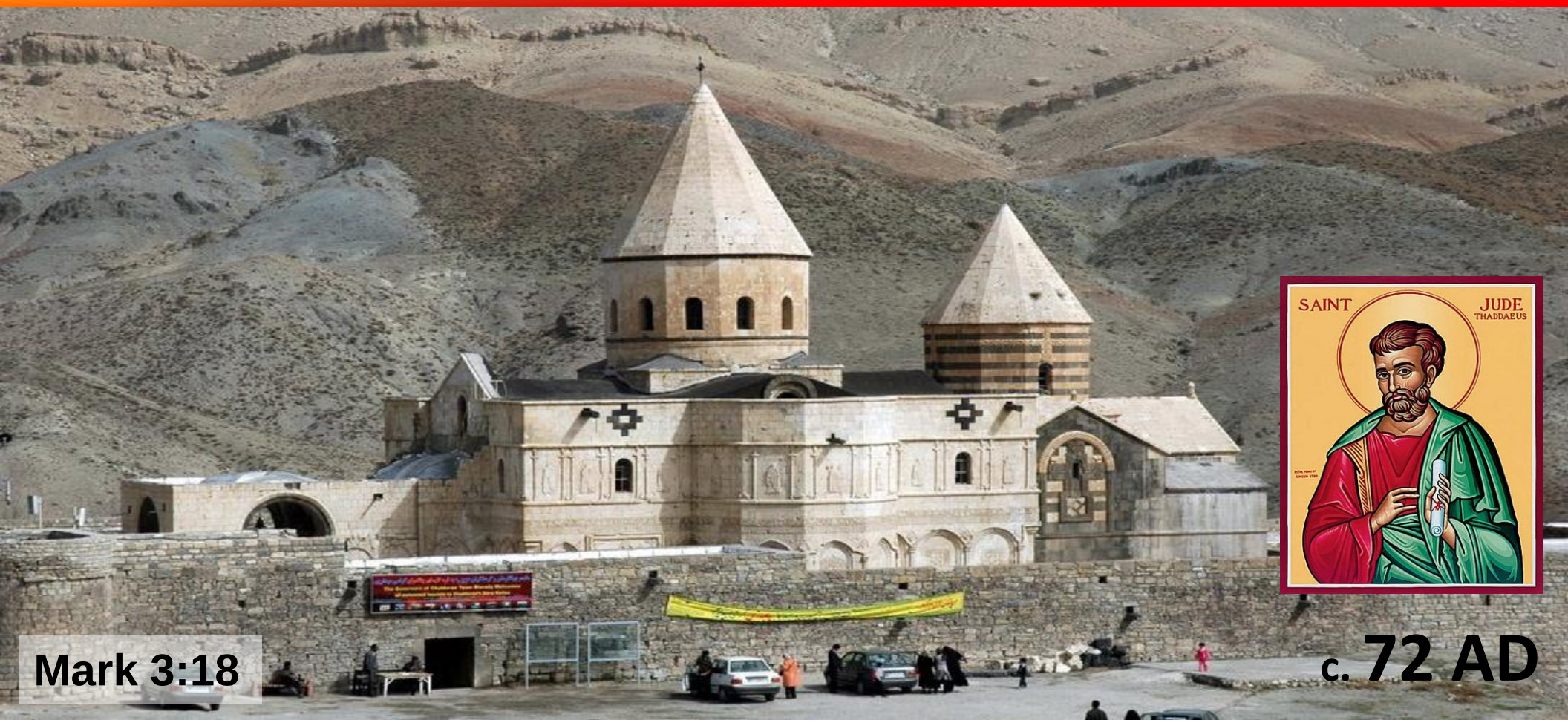
The Apostle Thomas, also called Didymus, the twin, founded 7 and a half churches in Kerala, a state on the West Coast of India. He was killed by order of King Misdeus and his body was buried in Chennai in the first century in the place where the Santhomes Cathedral Basilica stands today. In the 10th century AD, a group of Christians from Persia founded the village of San Thomes and built a church around the site of his grave. However, the structure fell into disrepair in the 14th-15th centuries. Then in 1522 Portuguese Christians moved the apostles' remains to a new tomb and church in the same general area. Now the San Thome church is called a Basilica and is a place of pilgrimage for many Indian Christians.

103

The place of the martyrdom and burial of the Apostle Thaddeus

St. Thaddeus Monastery, Qareh Kelisa, Iran. *39° 5'32.00"N, 44°32'40.00"E*

(https://mapio.net/wiki/Q842826-en/) (accessed November 29 2018)



The Apostle Lebbaeus Thaddeus was a disciple who is also identified as Jude by many traditions. According to Armenian tradition, the Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew came to Armenia in 45 AD to bring the gospel to its people in present-day Iran. The ancient Christian historian Moses of Khorene recounts that Thaddeus converted King Abgar the Fifth of Edessa. After his death, the Armenian kingdom was split into two parts. His son Ananun crowned himself in Edessa, while his nephew Sanatruk ruled in Armenia. About AD 66, Ananun gave the order to kill St. Thaddeus in Edessa by club. The king's daughter Sandokht, who had converted to Christianity, was also martyred with Thaddeus. The place of martyrdom and burial is at Qareh Kelisa, Iran. Later a church was built near his grave which many say is the oldest lasting church structure in the world. The present structure dates from the early 19th century, around a 13th century building and that was built upon an older structure going back to the first century. Thousands of Christians gather annually near the church to worship and remember the life of Saint Thaddeus or Jude, the Patron saint of Iran and the Armenians. He is also known as the Patron Saint of Lost Causes.

104

The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Simon the Zealot

Saint Simon the Canaanite Monastery, New Athos, Abkhazia, Georgia. *43° 5'25.84"N, 40°48'58.68"E*

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_St._Simon_the_Canaanite,_New_Athos) (accessed November 29 2018)

Luke 6:14-16

c. 74 AD

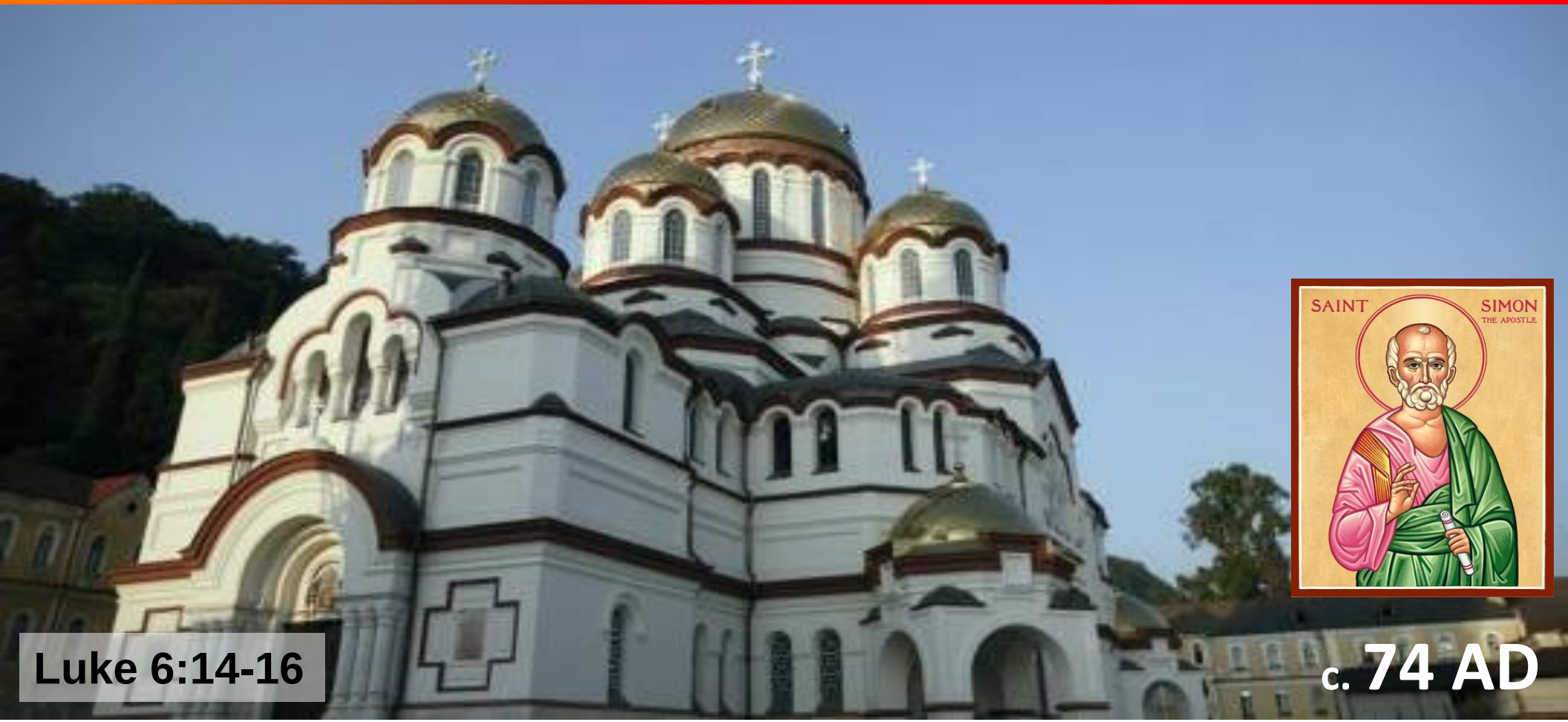
Simon the Zealot was a disciple of Jesus Christ who was either zealous for God with a strong fervor or could have been part of a group called the Kanaa'im who were zealous for the law of Moses. There is not much else written about Simon the Zealot in the New Testament, except in John 14:22 where he said: "The Foxes' Book of Martyrs from the 16th Century maintains that Simon preached the gospel in Mauritania, Africa and Britain (possibly Glastonbury) and holds that Simon was martyred in Britain, possibly in Caistor, Lincolnshire, England. Ethiopian Christians believe that he was crucified in Samaria. Justus Lipsius in the 16th Century AD claimed that he was sawn in half longitudinally in Suanir, Persia. However, the oldest account is from Moses of Chorene in the 5th Century AD wrote that he was stoned to death at Weriosphora in Caucasian Iberia at the Church of New Athos in Georgia. The site of his martyrdom by Orthodox tradition was the Psirju River near St. Simon the Canaanite Church. Next to the river are stones with red coloration where legend has it that Simon the Canaanite's blood became infused in the rocks. Pilgrims come and often take stones at the site for blessing and are baptized in the river. Saint Simon is buried within the Monastery of St. Simon the Canaanite in New Athos, Abkhazskaya, Georgia. Relics of St. Simon are also found in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome.

105

The burial place of the Apostle Simon the Zealot

Saint Simon the Canaanite Church, New Athos, Abkhazia, Georgia. *43° 5'17.16"N, 40°49'16.31"E*

(https://ryanphunter.wordpress.com/tag/sergei-yazvinsky/) (accessed November 29, 2018)



Luke 6:14-16

c. 74 AD

The site of the martyrdom of St. Simon the Canaanite by Orthodox tradition was the Psirju River near St. Simon the Canaanite Church. Next to the river are stones with red coloration where legend has it that Simon the Canaanite's blood became infused in the rocks. Pilgrims come and often take stones at the site for blessing and are baptized in the river. Saint Simon is buried within the Monastery of St. Simon the Canaanite in New Athos, Abkhazskaya, Georgia. Relics of St. Simon are also found in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. Christians in Georgia are fruit of the life and death of the Apostle Simon the Canaanite.

106

The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Matthias

Gonio Fortress, Adjara, Georgia. *41°34'23.43"N, 41°34'24.72"E*

(http://dandlwandering10.blogspot.com/2015/08/batumi-capital-of-ajara-part-15-of-from.html) (accessed November 29, 2018)

Acts 1:15-26

c. 80 AD

Matthias was chosen by the apostles to replace Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus and then committed suicide. Greek tradition states that Matthias planted the faith near Cappadocia (modern-day central Turkey), and on the coasts of the Caspian Sea. According to church historian Nicephorus, Matthew first preached the gospel in Judea, then in Aethiopia (modern-day Georgia) and was taken to the Gonio Fortress, tortured, then martyred somewhere on these grounds. The grave of St. Matthias is located in the Fortress of Gonio in modern-day Georgia. Excavations of the site are not permitted at present.

107

The burial place of the Apostle Matthias

St. Matthias Abbey, Trier, Germany. *49°44'17.67"N, 6°37'55.20"E*

(http://turkeynuggets4pete.blogspot.com/2011/04/after-morning-of-pre-op-appointments-we.html) (accessed November 29, 2018)

Acts 1:15-26

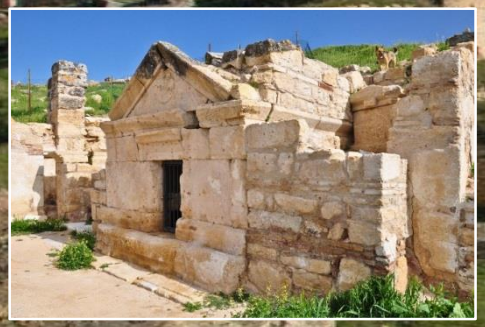
The initial grave of St. Matthias is located in the Fortress of Gonio in modern-day Georgia. Excavations of the site are not permitted at present. In the 4th Century, the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, is said to have brought the bones of St. Matthias out of the grave and brought them to Trier, Germany, where they were interred in the Abbey of St. Matthias. The church has been given the status of a Basilica minor and German pilgrims make the trip to be near the remains of the Apostle who replaced Judas as one of the twelve followers of Jesus Christ.

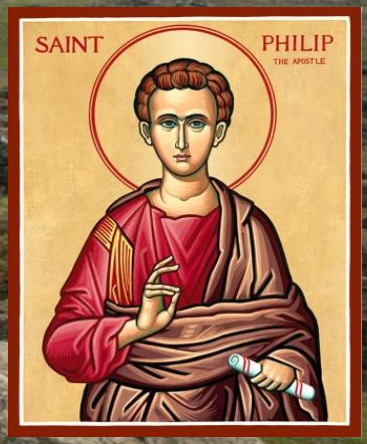
108

The place of the martyrdom and initial tomb of the Apostle Philip

St. Philip Martyrium, 2 Km NE of Pammukale, Turkey. *37°55'52.76"N, 29° 7'48.45"E*

(http://aegean-dreams.com/Photo%20pages/Heirapolis%20Martyrium%20St%20Philip.html/) (accessed December 13, 2018)





John 12:24

c. 80 AD

Philip came from the town of Bethsaida as did Peter and Andrew. He was the one who introduced Nathanael to Jesus. He also asked Jesus how to feed 5,000 people and asks Jesus to show him the Father in the upper room. He is not to be confused with Philip the evangelist. After the ascension of Jesus, some histories record that Philip, his sister Mariamne and Bartholomew brought the gospel to Greece, Phrygia and Syria. In the Acts of Philip, we read that Philip was martyred at Hierapolis, in modern-day Turkey. In this account, we read that through a miraculous healing, the wife of the Proconsul of Hierapolis believed. This enraged the Proconsul who had Philip, Bartholomew and Mariamne all tortured. Philip and Bartholomew were then crucified upside-down and Philip preached from his cross. As a result of his preaching, the crowd released Bartholomew from his cross, but Philip insisted that they not release him, so he died as a result of crucifixion in 80 AD. During the 6th Century the bones of Philip were transferred to Rome. Now St. Philip's bones are in the crypt within the Church of Santi Apostoli in Rome, Italy.

109

The place of the martyrdom of St. Luke the Evangelist

St. Luke the Evangelist Church, Thiva, Greece. *38°18'54.30"N, 23°19'24.81"E*

(http://full-of-grace-and-truth.blogspot.com/2008/10/st-luke-evangelist.html) (accessed November 29, 2018)

Colossians 4:14

c. 84 AD

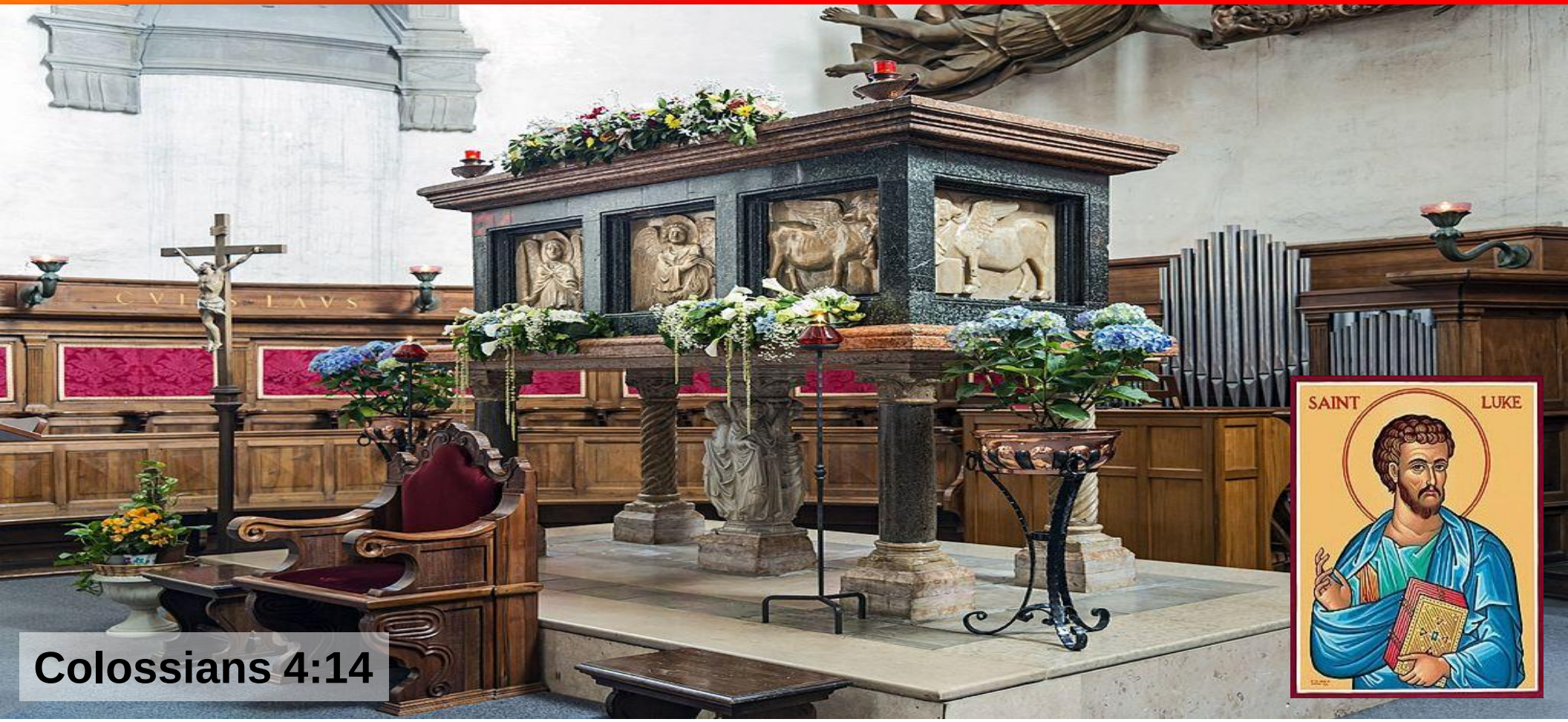
Luke, the doctor, was the first church historian and probably a Gentile (Colossians 4:10-11) and was a companion of the Apostle Paul and travelled with him on his missionary journeys even to Rome itself by the and of the Acts of the Apostles around 61AD. He remained faithful and steadfast, serving alongside the Apostle Paul right until Paul's execution. He was an incredible historian and his descriptions in the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles have proven to be amazingly accurate in minute detail. Sir William Ramsay, archaeologist and Noble Laureate who was knighted for his work, declared "Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy... [he] should be placed along with the very greatest of historians." He travelled extensively in Palestine, Syria, Asia Minor, Italy and Greece. Very early tradition holds that he died peacefully in Thebes, modern Thiva, in Greece in the year 84 AD. His remains were buried in a tomb that is now located in St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Thiva, Greece, in the Orthodox tradition.

110

The burial place of St. Luke the Evangelist

St. Justina Basilica, Padua, Italy. *45°23'46.18"N, 11°52'46.68"E*

(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Santa_Giustina_(Padua)_-_Chapel_of_Saint_Luke_-_Tomb_of_Luke_the_Evangelist_(front).jpg) (accessed November 30, 2018)



Colossians 4:14

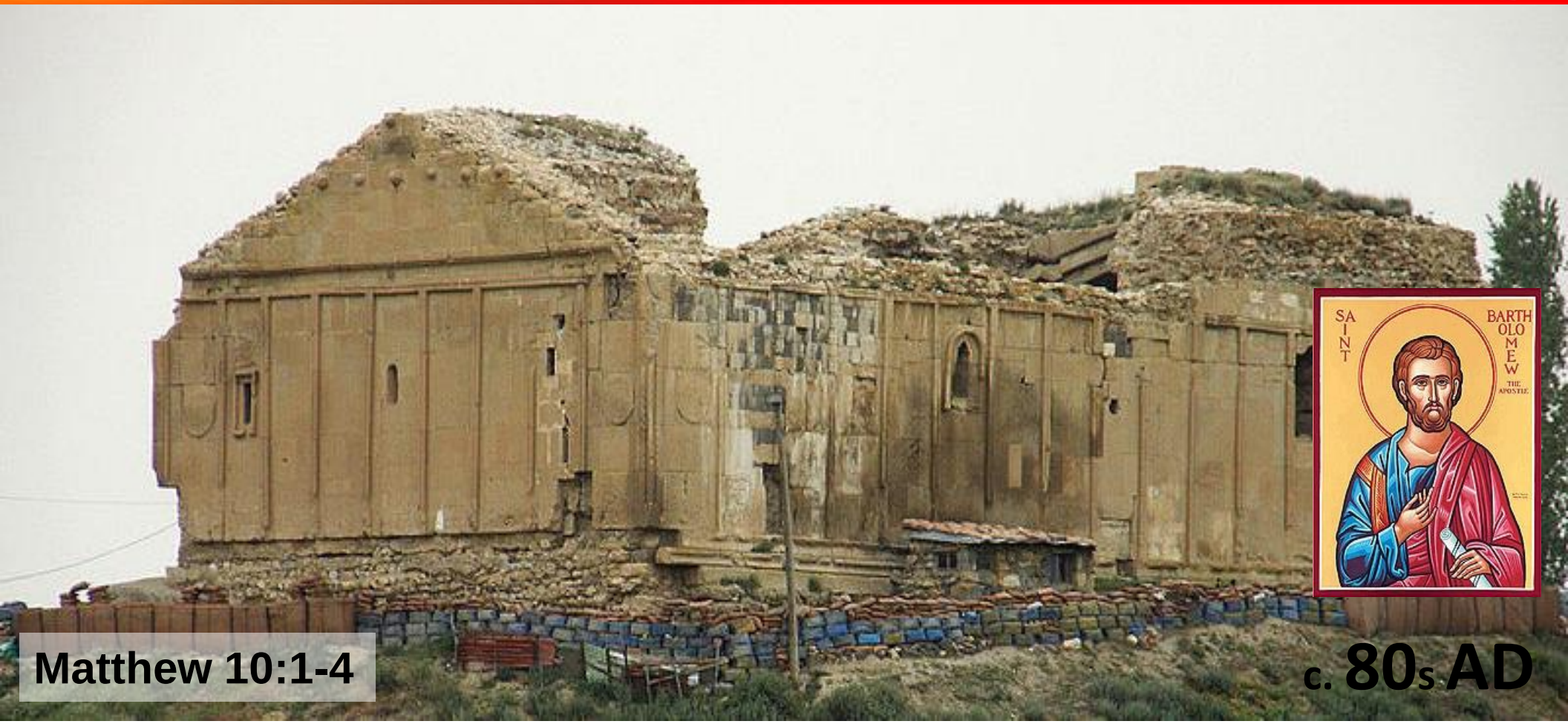
The remains of Dr. Luke, the saint, were buried in a tomb in Thiva, Greece. Then in the year 338 AD St. Luke's remains were transferred to Constantinople by Constantine. They were placed in the Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople. The church later burned down yet the coffin of St. Luke remained undamaged by the fire. Then in 527 AD the Emperor Justinian rebuilt the church and placed a shrine around the tomb of St. Luke. Next, before the year 1177 AD, a coffin made out of lead with the image of the 3 calf's heads – symbolic of the Gospel of Luke – was transferred from Constantinople to its current resting place – in a marble sarcophagus in Padua, Italy. In 1354, Roman Emperor Charles IV asked for the skull of St. Luke to be removed and taken to Prague. Then in 1998 the marble sarcophagus in Padua was opened and inside was a skeleton (minus the skull) of a man between 70-85 with 2 loose teeth. Radiocarbon dating showed that the man had lived between 72-416 AD. We know that St. Luke died in 84 AD so the gender and time period match. Then a mitochondrial DNA test was done which showed that the remains were of a man who was from Syrian descent, which is true of Luke as he was from Antioch. Finally, in 2000, the Catholic Bishop of Padua, Bishop Mattiazzo sent a rib from the skeletal remains to put in the empty tomb of St. Luke in Thebes. So we can confirm that the remains are most likely those of the Evangelist, Church historian and physician, St. Luke.

111

The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Bartholomew

St. Bartholomew Monastery, Albayrak Bucagi, Turkey. *38° 8'59.92"N, 44°12'46.56"E*

(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Saint_Bartholomew_Armenian_Monastery.JPG) (accessed November 30, 2018)



Matthew 10:1-4

c. 80s AD

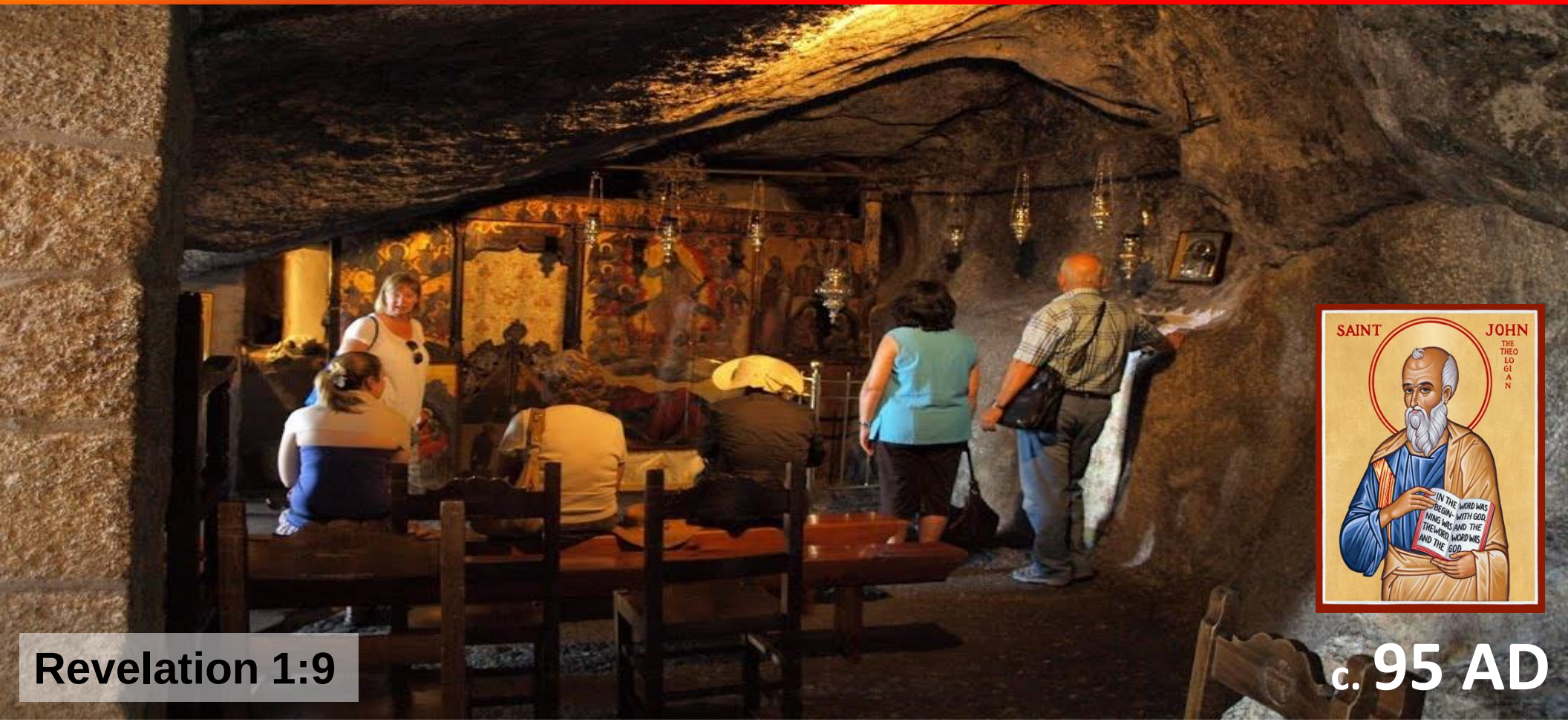
Bartholomew, whom many believe was also called Nathanael, was born in Cana of Galilee and seems to always be mentioned along with the disciple Philip. After the ascension of Jesus, some histories record that Bartholomew, Philip and his sister Mariamne brought the gospel to Greece, Phrygia and Syria. Eusebius of Caesarea recounts how Bartholomew brought the gospel to India's Konkan coast to the ancient city of Kalyan. Here he left behind a copy of Matthew's gospel and translated it into their language. In the Acts of Philip, we read that Bartholomew, Philip and Mariamne were all tortured in Hierapolis because the Proconsul of Hierapolis' wife became a Christian through a miraculous healing. Bartholomew and Philip were then crucified upside-down. Philip preached the gospel from his cross and as a result of his preaching, the crowd released Bartholomew from his cross, but Philip insisted that they not release him, so he died as a result of crucifixion in 80 AD. Following this incident, he went to preach the gospel along with the Apostle Thaddeus in present-day Armenia. He brought the gospel to the King of Armenia, King Polymius, who became a Christian, and resulted in the King's brother Astyages condemning Bartholomew to death. According to tradition he was skinned alive then crucified upside down in the ancient city of Albanopolis in Armenia between 80-100 AD. The Arsacid King Sanatruk who was healed by God of leprosy through the ministry of Saint Bartholomew built a church around the site of Bartholomew's martyrdom in the 1st century. In the year 983, the bones of Bartholomew were transferred to the Isle of Tiber in Rome and a basilica set up to preserve his remains was built called the Church of St. Bartholomew-in-the-Island in Rome. This monastery (above) was completed in the 13th century and was a major place of pilgrimage for Armenian Christians as Bartholomew is the Patron saint of Armenia. Sadly during the Armenian genocide following World War One the monastery was partially destroyed and is now half-ruined.

112

The Cave of the Revelation to St. John at Patmos

Skala, Patmos, Greece. *37°18'51.51"N, 26°32'38.92"E*

(http://travellikeanarchitect.com/revelation-in-patmos/) (accessed December 13, 2018)



Revelation 1:9

c. 95 AD

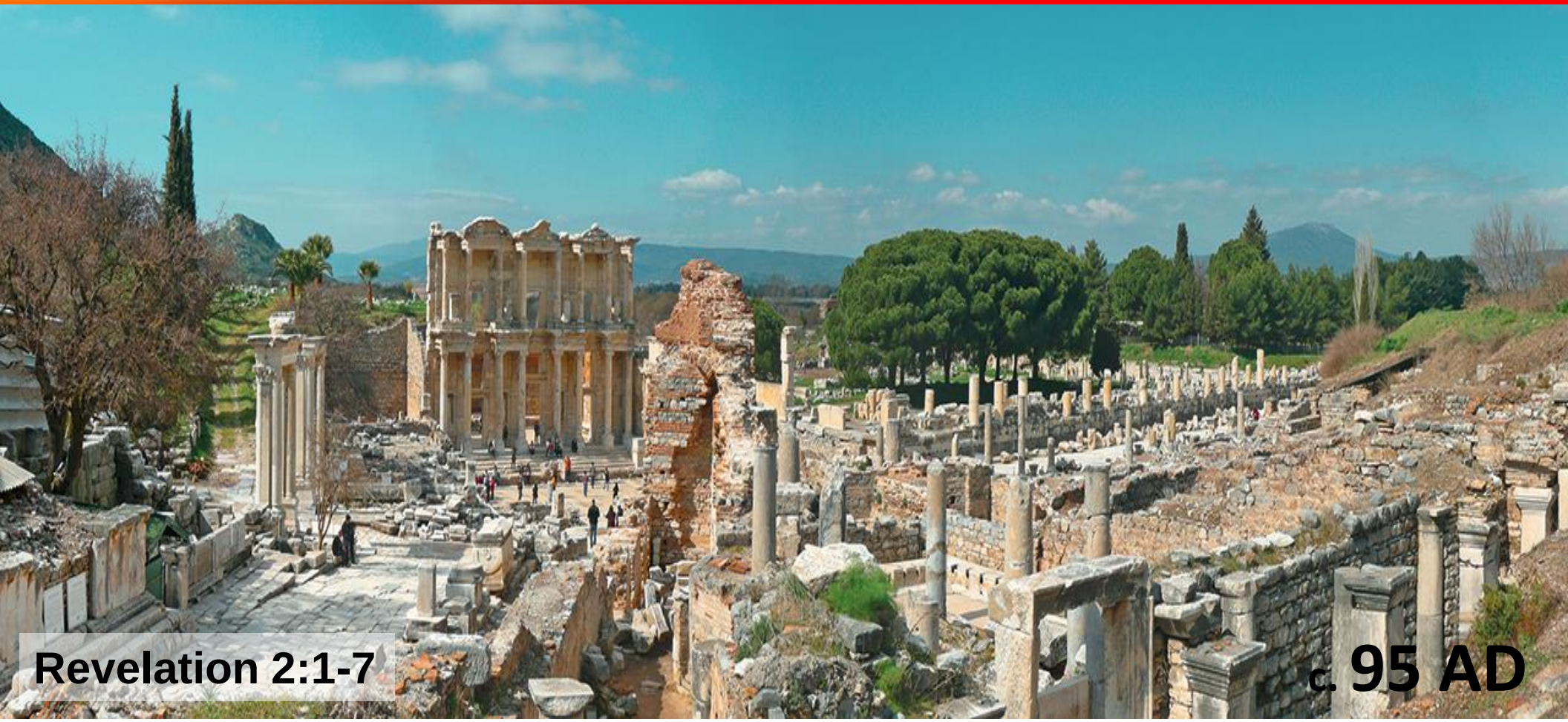
In the second century, following the death of the Apostle John, a number of Christian basilicas were erected. In 300-350 AD, a Grand Royal Basilica was erected on the same site as the Monastery of St. John. In Muslim raids from the 7th to the 9th centuries, the Basilica was destroyed. Then in the year 1088, Father John Christodoulos of Nicea, came to the deserted Island of Patmos and had the Monastery of St. John the Theologian built on the same site as the Byzantine ruins. As well, a cave was identified as the place where St. John received the Revelation. The monastery was built in 1091 and St. John Christodoulos died two years later.

113

Revelation: The First Church at Ephesus

Selçuk, İzmir Province, Turkey. *37°56'19.15"N, 27°20'27.90"E*

https://www.kusadasi.biz/ephesus/ruins.htmll) (accessed November 29, 2018)



Revelation 2:1-7

c. 95 AD

As Christians came under extreme persecution following the birth of the church at Pentecost, believers moved out from Judea to other parts of the Roman Empire bringing the gospel. Ephesus was a very strategic place as it was a very large port city of about 250,000 and many came through to visit the enormous Temple of Artemis and to buy and sell. It was to the ancient world what New York City is today. The disciple John came to Ephesus and became founder of the church there as he cared for Mary the Mother of Jesus until her death. Then Paul the Apostle came through and preached the gospel in the Lecture Hall of Tyrannus and won many over to Jesus Christ. The church grew and new converts burned their books on magic arts. The belief in pagan gods was losing its power to faith in Jesus Christ. This so affected the sale of silver images of Diana that the silversmiths were in danger of losing their trade. After an uprising in the theatre of Ephesus over this incident, the people calmed down and the church continued to grow under Paul's leadership. He then appointed Timothy as Bishop of the church of Ephesus. For a few decades under the leadership of the apostles the church was doing well, but by the close of the first century, Jesus tells the church that although they had kept faithful in church doctrine they had left their first love and needed to repent and get back to loving God and loving others such as rescuing abandoned babies and such as Jesus had commanded.

114

Revelation: The Second Church at Smyrna

İzmir, İzmir Province, Turkey. *38°25'7.00"N, 27° 8'21.00"E*

http://www.turkeysforlife.com/2013/03/izmir-ancient-agora.html) (accessed November 29, 2018)

Revelation 2:8-11

c. 95 AD

Smyrna is located 56 km NNE of Ephesus and is on the Aegean Sea where the Hermus River flows into the Gulf of Izmir. Now it is the site of one of the largest cities in Turkey – Izmir. In the first century Smyrna became a center of the cult of Emperor worship as a temple to the deity of Rome was built in the city. Those who refused to worship the Emperor were seen as enemies of the state. The church was suffering intense persecution and was made up of poor people yet who were rich in the eyes of God. About 60 years later, one of these heroes of the faith was a man named Polycarp who had been a disciple of John. He was a man who was devoted to prayer for all the churches. Under the persecution that came to the early church, Polycarp was arrested by the Proconsul in Smyrna in 155 AD. When asked to denounce his faith in Jesus Christ and "swear by the fortune of Caesar", Polycarp stated boldly: "Eighty and six years have I served Christ, nor has He ever done me any harm. How, then, could I blaspheme my King who saved me? I bless Thee for deigning me worthy of this day and this hour that I may be among Thy martyrs and drink the cup of my Lord Jesus Christ." He was then martyred by stabbing because his body would not burn at the stake. Following his example, the church of Christ, although persecuted through the centuries still is alive and well in Turkey.

115

Revelation: The Third Church at Pergamum

Bergama, Izmir Province, Turkey. *39° 7'57.00"N, 27°11'3.00"E*

https://hometurkey.com/en/destinations/bergama-pergamon) (accessed November 29, 2018)

Revelation 2:12-17

c. 95 AD

Pergamum is located 24 Km from the Agean sea. Pergamum was the political centre of Asia minor. It was also the capital of emperor worship, where incense was offered to Caesar as the “divine”. The Christian martyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum who was ordained by the Apostle John, had exorcised many demons in the city, causing the priests to be afraid of losing business. Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum, was ordered to offer incense in sacrifice to the emperor, declaring that the Emperor was “Lord and God”. When he refused, Antipas was put to death by burning in a bull-shaped altar on the Altar of Zeus in 92 AD. This altar was moved and is now on display in the Museum in Berlin. As well, the people of Pergamum worshipped Asclepius, the god of healing, who was often represented as a man with serpents around him. The temple of Asclepius was called the Asclepion and often it was filled with non-venemous snakes who would writhe on top of the person coming in for healing as they slept. Priests of Asclepius believed that Asclepius spoke through the snakes and brought about healing. The symbol of Asclepius was two coiled snakes on a staff (which today is still the symbol of the medical arts). Christians in Pergamum were faced with many difficulties. They could compromise and offer incense to Caesar or they could not offer incense and be more persecuted but truly overcome with Christ Jesus and receive salvation and a white stone For St. Antipas his allegiance was completely to the Lord Jesus Christ. He remained faithful unto death and was a shining light in the darkest of places.

116

Revelation: The Fourth Church at Thyatira

Akhisar, Manisa Province, Turkey. *38°55'12.19"N, 27°50'11.09"E*

(http://www.philadelphiafellowship.org/) (accessed November 29, 2018)

Revelation 2:18-29

c. 95 AD

Thyatira was about 32 Km Southeast of Pergamum on a valley road between the Hermus and Caicus Rivers. As Thyatira was between the cities of Pergamum and Sardis, it was involved in trade and the selling of manufactured goods by tradespeople such as potters, tanners, metal workers, coppersmiths, weavers, robe makers and dyers. When Jesus mentions fine brass it is interesting as Thyatira was famous for their manufacture of fine brass. Lydia, the first convert in Europe was from Thyatira and sold purple cloth that was manufactured there using dye from the Madder root (*Rubia tinctorum*). All of these tradespeople were part of trade guilds and often these guilds would meet and go to pagan dinners and be involved in sexual immorality. Believers in Thyatira had become corrupted as well. There was a woman in the church who claimed to be a follower of Jesus but was a temptress who led people in the church to commit sexual immorality with her and eat foods sacrificed to idols. The Lord Jesus gave her time to repent but she did not and soon she and those who sinned with her would be judged by God. For those faithful Christians in the church who were not part of this, Jesus told them to hold firmly to their faith in Christ until His return. Excavations performed in 1974-1975 revealed a Byzantine era monastery that stood from the 2nd Century to the 6th Century in Thyatira.

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Revelation: The Fifth Church at Sardis

Sart, Manisa Province, Turkey. *38°29'17.78"N, 28° 2'24.70"E*

(http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/thermal-heating-used-in-ancient-city-of-sardis-134170/) (accessed November 29, 2018)

Revelation 3:1-6

c. 95 AD

Sardis, now modern Sart, Turkey, is located along the junction of highways linking Ephesus, Smyrna and Pergamos. It was the capital of the Lydian Empire and during the reign of King Croetus, metallurgists discovered how to separate silver from gold in the alloy electrum. Pure silver and gold coins could now be minted in the capital of the Lydian Empire and Sardis and King Croetus soon became famous for its wealth. However, Persian King Cyrus conquered Croetus in 546 BC because its watchmen had not kept proper guard on a seemingly impenetrable part of the city. Hundreds of years later, in 17 AD, Sardis suffered a major earthquake that destroyed the city. It was rebuilt with the financial assistance from the Roman Emperor Tiberias and was exempted from taxes for 5 years. Excavations of the city in 1958 by G.M.A. Hanffman of Harvard, and Henry Detweiler of Cornell Universities, revealed a very large synagogue and a very impressive gymnasium and bath complex that dates back to the 2nd century. They also uncovered late Roman houses and shops and an industrial area to separate gold from silver. Much of the gym and bath complex structure is still intact and was a precursor to the more modern famous Turkish baths. Sadly, excavation revealed only a few Christian inscriptions in Sardis. The gospel came to Sardis years before the Apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation. The church at Sardis was once known to be a vibrant and living, but it was in fact dead and the church almost completely gone in 95 AD. Wealth and materialism and the desire for physical comforts had lured many into complacency and compromise. However, there were a few in Sardis who truly followed Jesus Christ and they walked with Jesus in white.

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Revelation: The Sixth Church at Philadelphia

Alaşehir, Manisa Province, Turkey. *38°20'58.20"N, 28°31'4.74"E*

(http://www.philadelphiafellowship.org/) (accessed November 29, 2018)

Revelation 3:7-13

c. 95 AD

Philadelphia, now modern Alaşehir, Turkey, is located in the valley of the Kuzuçay at the foot of the Bozdağ Mountain (it was called Mount Tmolus). King Eumenes II of Pergamon, who reigned from 197-160 BC, founded the city and named it for the love of his brother Attalus II, who reigned after him. Philadelphia comes from Phila (brotherly love), delphos (city) - the "City of Brotherly Love". In 17 AD, an earthquake badly damaged Philadelphia. In response, the Roman Emperor Tiberias exempted the city from having to pay taxes. In return, the Philadelphians honoured the Emperor for his generosity by naming the city Neocaesarea (New Caesarea). The city had indeed received a new name. In Philadelphia, Christians were suffering persecution at the hands of Jews who were called by Jesus "The synagogue of Satan". The church received nothing but praise from Jesus Christ. Churches nowadays name their local church after Philadelphia since they were so faithful to Jesus Christ. In more recent times, during the Greco-Turkish war of 1919-1922, the Greek army occupied the city of Alaşehir (Philadelphia). Then when they left, they burned the city to the ground, destroying 70% of the city itself. An estimated 3,000 people died when the city was set on fire. What remains today of Philadelphia is the 11th Century church of St. John the Theologian which has mostly been destroyed.

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Revelation: The Seventh Church at Laodicea

Eskihisar, Denizli Province, Turkey. *37°50'10.57"N, 29° 6'32.49"E*

(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Laodicea_on_the_Lycus,_Phrygia,_Turkey_(21614089982).jpg) (accessed on November 29, 2018)

Revelation 3:14-22

c. 95 AD

The city of Laodicea was located 70 km southeast of Philadelphia and 160 km East of Ephesus on the southern bank of the Lycus River. The city grew to wealth during Roman times due to its sale of wool from black sheep which was woven in the city and coveted all across the Roman world. As well the city produced a paste which treated eye ailments. . The doctors were so famous that they had their names on coins. Laodicea was also known as a banking and money changing centre. The city was so wealthy that in 60 AD when the city was destroyed by an earthquake, no funds from Rome were necessary to rebuild. Excavations of ancient Laodicea showed marble everywhere, 2 theatres, a stadium and Christians in the city boasted that they were rich and had need of nothing in the first century. However, it had no pure water of its own. Its' water had to be supplied by an aqueduct which was 10 km to the North in Denizli. By the time the hot water got to the city it was neither hot nor cold but was lukewarm. The church was wealthy and self-sufficient outwardly but inwardly and spiritually was impoverished, lukewarm in their faith was about to be vomited out of the mouth of Jesus and needed to repent.

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The Tomb of St. John the Apostle

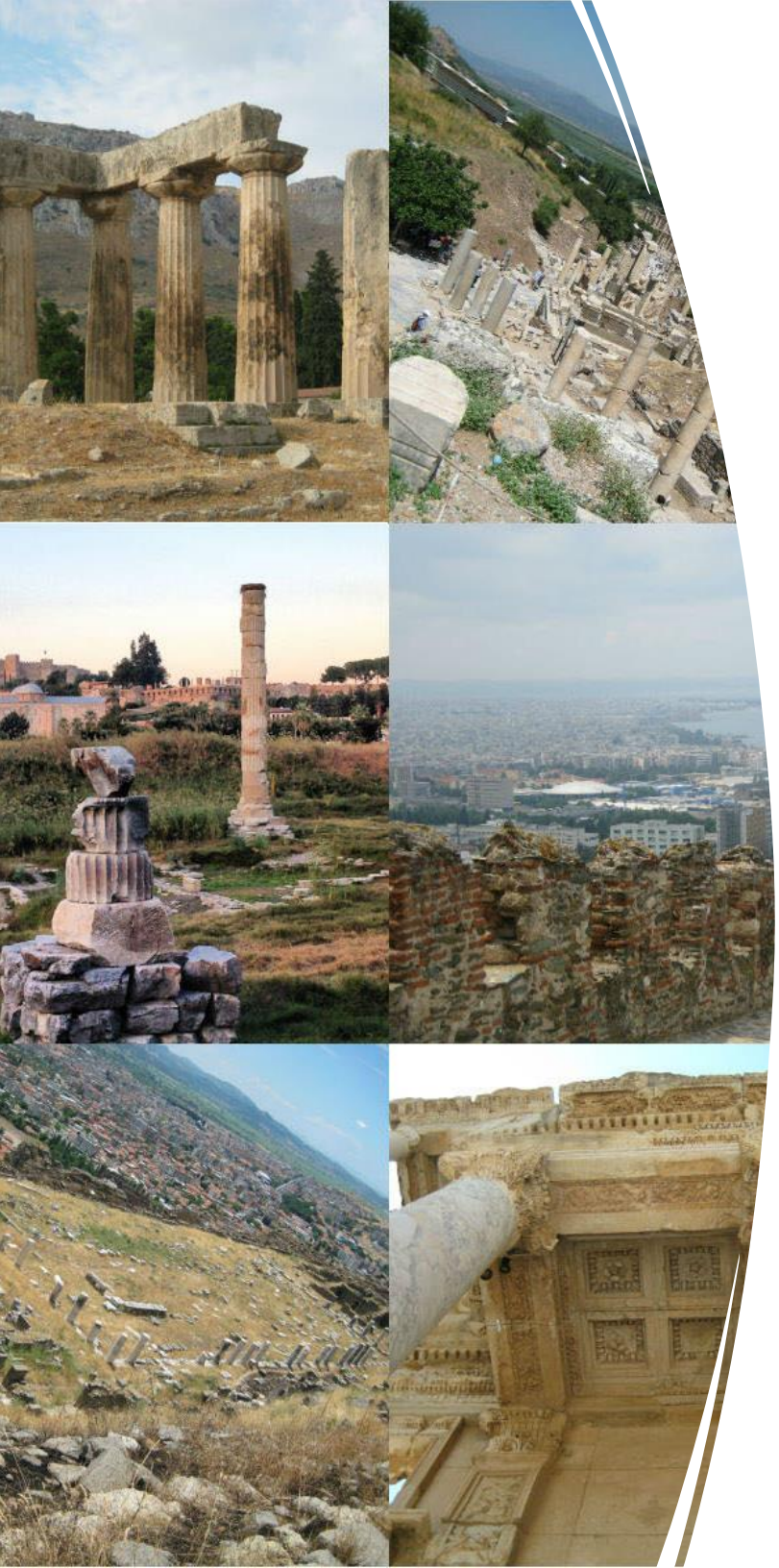
Selçuk, İzmir Province, Turkey. *37°57'11.98"N, 27°22'1.39"E*

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basilica_of_St._John#/media/File:Tomb_of_Saint_John_the_Apostle.jpg) (accessed on November 29, 2018)

Matthew 10:1-4

c. 100 AD

The Apostle John was the son of Zebedee and Salome and his brother James was also one of the other apostles who died many years earlier. He was born around 6 AD in Bethsaida and was first a follower of John the Baptist then became a disciple of Jesus Christ. He was one of the 3 closest disciples to Jesus. Often we read how Jesus took Peter, James and John with him. He and his brother, John, were called Boanerges, which means “sons of Thunder”. It was John who sat next to Jesus at the last supper and the one who was referred to as “the one that Jesus loved”. Jesus had a special bond with the Apostle John and no better sign of this was when Jesus was dying he gave the care of Mary His mother into the hands of John by saying to John “here is your mother” and to Mary “here is your son”. The church historian Iraneus records that the Apostle John came to Ephesus in Asia Minor and became the Bishop of Ephesus. He would have brought Mary with him to Ephesus and she died around 46 AD. He remained strong in his faith, maintaining the gospel truths. According to tradition, the Apostle John was arrested under the Emperor Domitian and plunged into a pot of boiling oil in Rome. When he suffered no ill effects, John was taken and banished to the Island of Patmos. When the Emperor died, the new Emperor freed the Apostle John from the Island of Patmos. He went back to Ephesus and continued to be bishop until his peaceful death in 100 AD. In 400 AD, 300 years after his death, a stone church was erected at the place of his death. The Emperor Justinian then built a huge cross-shaped Basilica with domes in 537 AD. Today ruins mark the location of St. John’s Basilica in ancient Ephesus.



The Bible Journey - Conclusion

After looking at all the objective evidence for the Bible, from Genesis to the Book of Revelation, I can conclude that the events of the Bible did occur as it has been recorded. If these events occurred, then anyone can trust the Bible, not as the fallible word of man, but the infallible Word of God. The Bible in its original languages of Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek gives humanity its origins, purpose, direction for life and how to prepare for life after death. Unfortunately, our secular educational system does not give us any answers when it comes to faith in God. It is like a trial for faith in court with a prosecuting attorney and a defense attorney. The prosecuting attorney presents their case with millions of taxation dollars at their disposal and in a very convincing way. However, sadly the defense attorney never showed up. The 12 members of the jury decide on a verdict after only listening to the prosecutor who purposely omitted these facts. The jurors decide not to have faith in God, yet they never heard from the defense attorney. I pray that after hearing this defense of the validity of the Bible you will decide that the most reasonable thing to do is to believe in the Bible, love God, love your neighbour as yourself and follow Jesus Christ. After considering the evidence, I can conclude that the Christian faith is by far the most logical and reasonable faith one can ever have.